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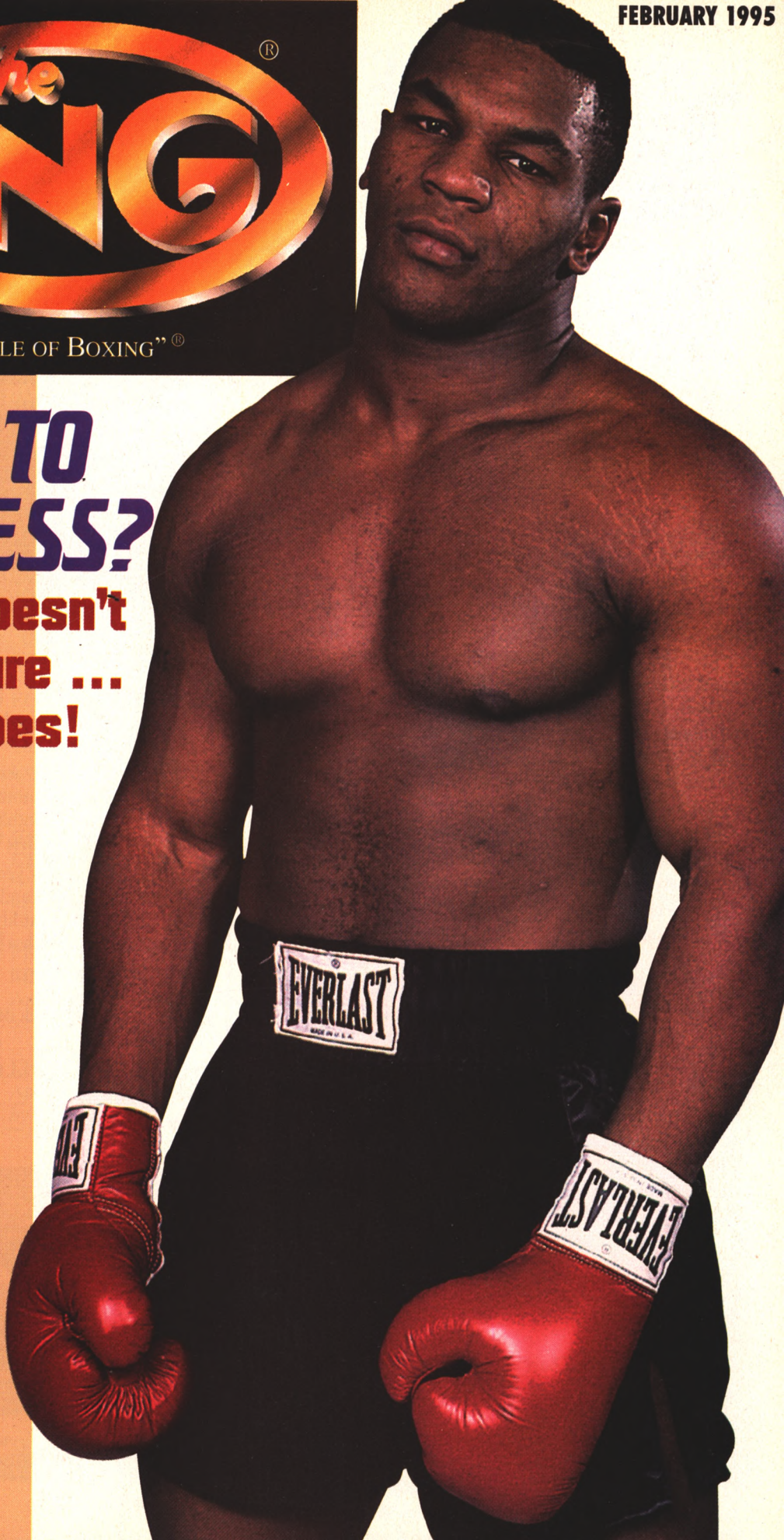

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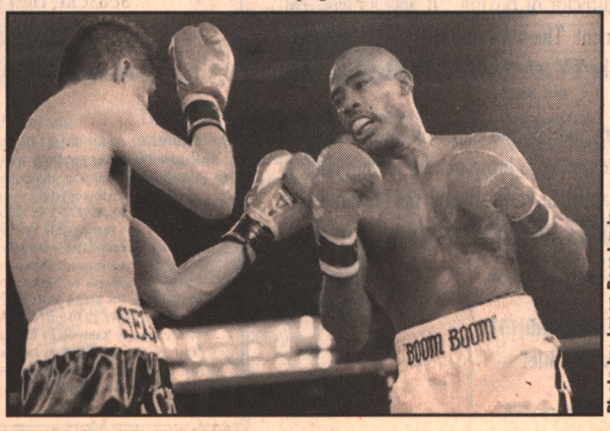

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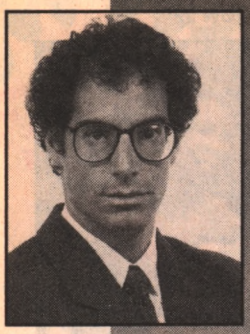

RINGSIDE

Asking a boxing writer to address a pet peeve is like asking a man who's been attacked by a jungle's worth of mosquitoes which itch he's going to scratch first. Nonetheless, the question was recently posed by a radio interviewer, and I was surprised at how quickly and forcefully a certain issue popped into my mind. Call it my peeve du jour.

Because any publicity is good publicity, I'm furious with CBS for insisting to point out, again and again, the titles at stake in the network's Quaker State boxing series. It started at a New York City press conference in October, when CBS analyst Gil Clancy described the autumn series as including six "title fights." New York *Daily News* boxing scribe Michael Katz immediately objected, pointing out that while CBS may choose to recognize and legitimize the WBF, the IBO, and whatever other letters you care to put together, the rest of us might feel differently. Clancy, who's honest despite being in television, backed off. Be sure he's as comfortable billing WBF- and IBO-sanctioned bouts as "title fights" as he would be describing a six-round ham-'n-egger as the next Sugar Ray Robinson. But Quaker State was paying the bills, and if Quaker State wanted title fights, CBS was going to provide title fights. Sadly, that's the way it works.

During the first fight of the series, blow-by-blow announcer Tim Ryan made several mentions that clubfighters Kenny Keene and Terry Ray were competing for the WBF cruiserweight title. During the fourth fight, Ryan made sure to inform us that Jimmy Thunder and blown-up cruiserweight and late-substitute Richard Mason were dueling for the IBO heavyweight title. Then, as if it actually meant something, he added that Danell Nicholson, who was supposed to face Thunder, would be given a title shot against the winner. Perhaps racked with guilt, Ryan made sure to point out on both shows that the titles at stake were second-level, and those paragons of virtue, the WBA, WBC, and IBF, were the big leagues. Thanks for the clarification, Tim.

Ever since the televised boxing boom in the early-'80s, the networks have been criticized—and justly so—for hyping anything and everything as a title fight. But it doesn't have to be that way. In the late-'80s, NBC televised Michael Moorer-Ramzi Hassan. The fight happened to be for the WBO's light heavyweight title. But announcers Marv Albert and Ferdie Pacheco made no mention of that fledgling organization.

"The organization was a joke, and our standard procedure was to mention it only to ridicule it," said Kevin Monaghan, then NBC's director of boxing. "It was an easy call because Marv and Ferdie were in complete agreement. The term title fight is so devalued, it's not going to put one more viewer in front of the TV set. Besides, *every* fight is a title fight."

At least every fight on CBS. A message to Tim and Gil and Senior Vice President of Production Rick Gentile, who are so admirably attempting to bring quality boxing back to network television: It wasn't long ago that you established yourselves as the leaders in the field. A lot of that had to do with credibility. That's still important to us. How about proving it's still important to you, too.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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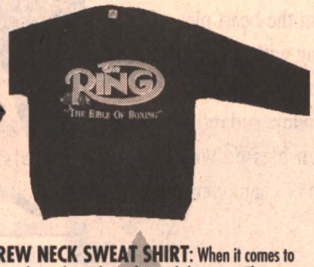

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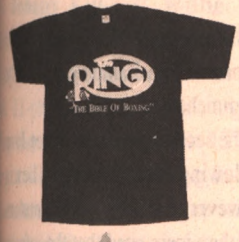

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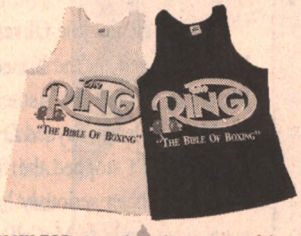

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

It was a tragedy to see Buddy McGirt in his rematch with Pernell Whitaker. McGirt has entertained us over the last dozen years, showing the world what real dedication and effort is.

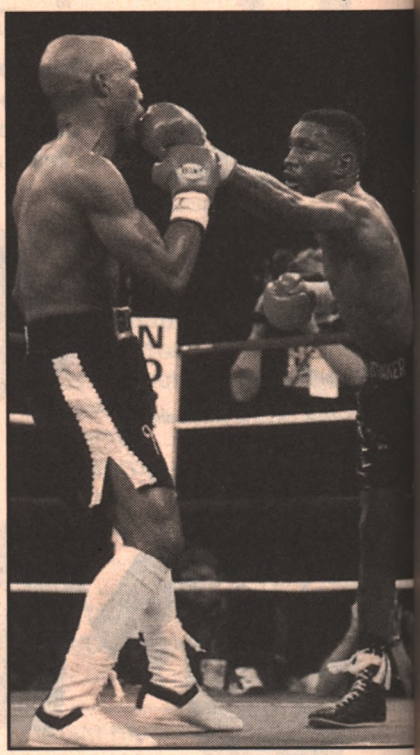
There can be no doubt now that McGirt's left shoulder is all but destroyed. He never unloaded that once-awesome left hook, or for that matter his powerful right hand, at least after the second round. And afterward, the marks on his face suggested a defense that has slowed down as well.

Besides salvaging what's left of his battle-torn body, McGirt would do well to rid himself of his pompous, foul-mouthed manager, Al Certo, who seemed deaf to his fighter's between-rounds spoken-from-the-heart plea of "I'm doing the best I can." What was wrong with you, Certo? Any idiot could've seen McGirt was just plain worn out.

Do the right thing for yourself, Buddy, and retire with the dignity and intelligence you've been blessed with. You'll never be forgotten as a true champion of champions.

JOSEPH NADER JR.
Port Sanilac, MI

Photo by Tom Casi



Whitaker struck McGirt with alarming ease

Did Lewis take McCall lightly?

THE FALL OF LENNOX LEWIS

After watching the Oliver McCall-Lennox Lewis fight on HBO I was outraged by the biased opinions of Jim Lampley and Lar Merchant, the network's so-called commentators.

McCall clearly kayoed Lewis in the second round. If referee Jos Garcia hadn't stopped the fight following the knockdown, Lew could have been seriously hurt. However, the HBO commentator never gave credit to McCall. In fact, they insinuated that the refer was in the pockets of Don King and WBC President Jose Sulaiman.

Not only do these announcers discredit any fighter who doesn fight for HBO, but they tarnish the victories of many great boxe who deserve praise rather than ridicule. These announcers shou stick to the facts and leave out their opinions, which are based o which fighters pay their salaries and which do not.

ANGELA FRANTZIS
Oakville, CT

After watching McCall-Lewis, I heard a lot of talk about a premature stoppage. I didn't think it was that bad of a call. Lewis fell pretty hard, was on unsteady legs upon rising, and was falling into the referee.

Instead of criticizing Lewis, let's give credit to McCall. The referees are under tremendous pressure. The decision of whether or not to stop a bout seems to be a catch-22 situation: Don't let it go too far. Let's keep in mind ring tragedies and brain damage; don't stop it too soon. Remember, it's a championship bout, so let's allow the fighter with the upper hand to finish his man. If a snap decision has to be made, let it be on the side of the fighter's safety.

JEFF POTTER
Brattleboro, VT

POOR JUDGMENT

October 15, 1994, was a shameful day for boxing. There have been bad decisions made in the past. I remember especially those decisions involving Whitaker vs. Ramirez in 1988, Chavez vs. Whitaker in 1993, and Toney vs. Tiberi in 1992. But Sergio Reyes fought his heart out and won, on my scorecard, 10 of 12 rounds against Orlando Canizales.

I wasn't familiar with any of the judges' names, and I fear the decision was a foregone conclusion before the fighters had entered the ring. This could turn off many boxing fans who truly love their sport.

JAMES A. NICHOLAS
Dumont, NJ

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

How can anyone in his right mind suggest that Salvador Sanchez would've beaten Eusebio Pedroza in a featherweight unification bout? ("What If ... Eusebio Pedroza vs. Salvador Sanchez?" November 1994) Whenever we are comparing fighters, we should refer only to their actual achievements, and not dwell on wouldas, shouldas, and couldas.

Johnny Kilbane, Willie Pep, Henry Armstrong, and Pedroza are the greatest featherweights in history. Kilbane held the title for 11-plus years. You can't argue with that. Pep lost only one of his first 137 bouts. Can't argue with that. Armstrong held three tiles simultaneously. Can't argue with that. And Pedroza made 19 successful defenses. Can't argue with that.

Sanchez made nine successful defenses before his death. Would he have made another 10 or 12? Until a featherweight champion actually does it, we're back to the wouldas, shouldas, and couldas.

MIKE REVELES
San Diego, CA

HAIL JULIO

I want to make six quick statements to combat all the recent anti-Julio Cesar Chavez sentiment.

•In Chavez-Meldrick Taylor I, Taylor didn't respond to Richard Steele's question of "are you okay?" Nor did he place his gloves in front of his face to indicate he could continue. Steele had no choice but to call a halt.

•Pernell Whitaker didn't do anything extraordinary to beat Chavez. All he did was backpedal and throw punches that wouldn't have even stopped Oscar De La Hoya.

•Chavez had two points deducted for hitting Frankie Randall below the beltline in their first fight, but Whitaker was not penalized at all for hitting Chavez low.

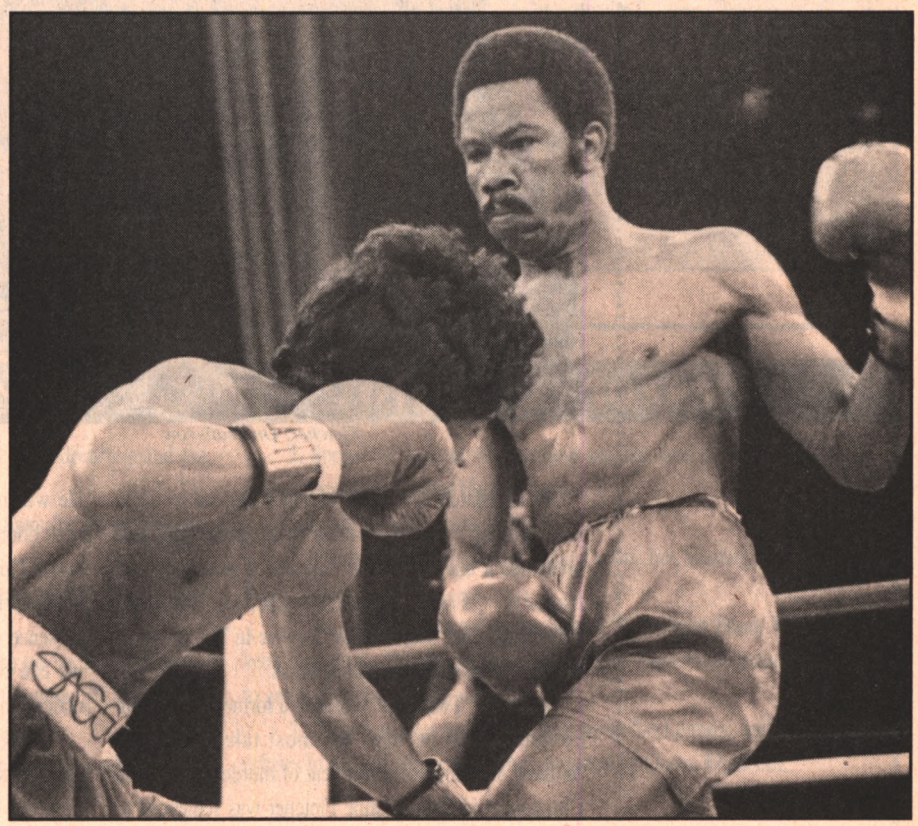
•Fans criticized Chavez for maintaining that he won the Whitaker fight, but nobody ever says anything about Marvin Hagler continuing to insist he defeated Sugar Ray Leonard.

•Had Chavez defeated Randall the first time, Randall would probably have gone on to win either the IBF or WBA title—and fans still would've continued criticizing Chavez for fighting nobodies.

•Unlike Chavez in the Randall rematch, Roberto Duran flat-out quit in his second bout with Leonard. And Duran is still considered one of the all-time greats.

Stop being jealous and naive and give respect where respect is due. We Chavez fans were proud when Julio defeated Taylor in their rematch, and we'll get the last laugh when he beats Randall once and for all.

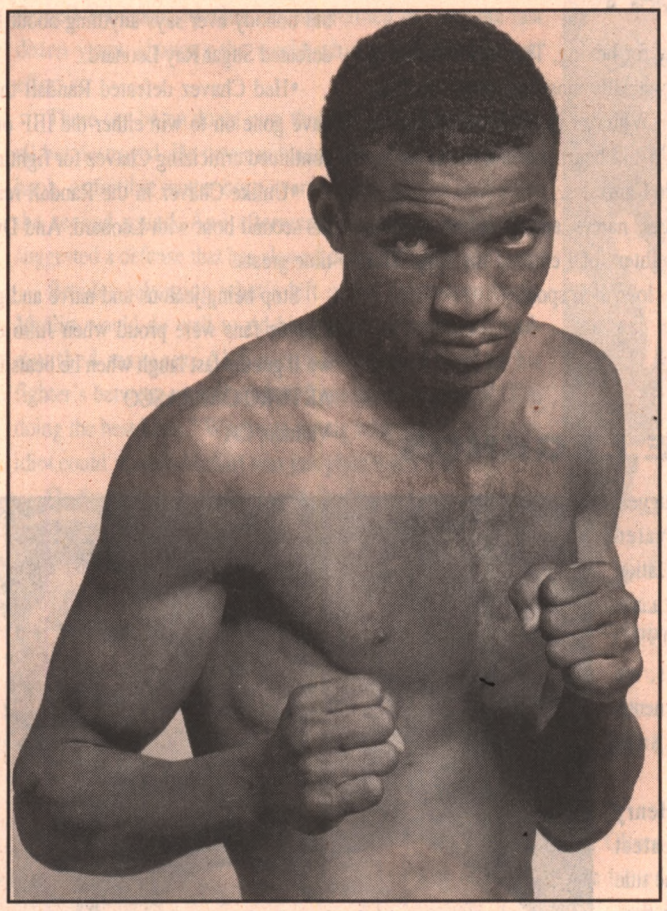
ARTURO CARRASCO
Valinda, CA ■



Pedroza was a brilliant champ, making 19 successful defenses

ROUND ONE

A SAD STORY GETS SADDER



Fletcher: On death row

In the March 1993 issue of THE RING, we revisited the fighting Fletcher family of Philadelphia and presented a tale of turmoil, unrealized potential, and tragedy. ("Frank Fletcher's Out-Of-The-Ring Comeback: Can 'The Animal' Survive In The Concrete Jungle?") The story has gotten worse.

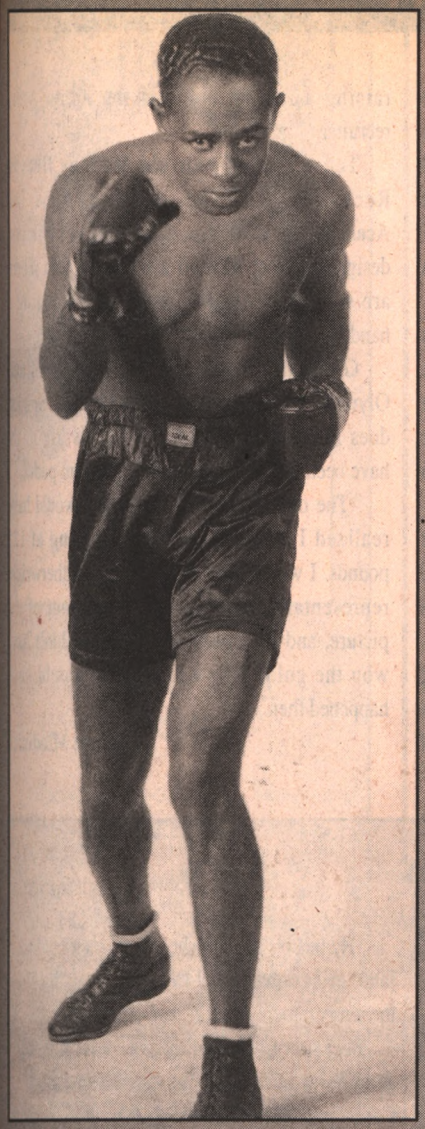
Anthony "Two-Gun" Fletcher, a former lightweight contender and perhaps the most talented of the brothers, was convicted last year of murdering Vaughn Christopher in Philadelphia. Fletcher was sentenced to death by lethal injection and now sits on death row. He is appealing his conviction and seeking a new trial.

Fletcher, an '80s southpaw who scored wins over Fred Pendleton and Livingstone Bramble, claims the murder was in self-defense, and that Christopher pulled a gun on him. He adds he was misrepresented by his court-appointed attorney. In a letter to THE RING, Fletcher wrote: "This is really an injustice to have me on death row. Look at the O.J. case ... If I had one of his lawyers, I wouldn't be here. I was sold out."

Frank "The Animal" Fletcher, one of the most exciting middleweights of the '80s, continues to struggle after several stints behind bars. At the time of the 1993 feature in THE RING, he had launched the Frank Fletcher Youth Foundation. But funding ran out and he is now working as a bouncer at Dancers, a non-alcoholic dance club in Philly. Fletcher was most recently jailed a few months ago after violating parole. (He was a passenger in a car that contained a gun in the trunk. He was released about six months ago. "Some days he'll come in and say, 'Send me back to jail because I know I'm going to do something stupid,'" said his parole officer, Christine Nettles. "At least he has the presence of mind to come in and talk about it. Usually we can work out his problems before he leaves the office. That's encouraging."

Frank fully supports Anthony and has planned a fundraising event at Dancers to help defray his brother's legal costs.

–Robert Cassidy



Gans: An inspiration to young fighters

JOE'S BOYS

In 1937, at the end of a career that took him to the top of the lightweight and welterweight rankings, Baby Joe Gans arrived in Milwaukee. Born Gerald Slaughter, Gans had taken his ring name from lightweight legend "Old Master" Joe Gans. Though Baby Joe never secured a try at the world title, THE RING included Gans several times among its "Selection Of Negro Champions" in the early-'30s.

Gans came to Beertown to train NBA middleweight champion Gorilla Jones for a bout that fell through. Broke and stranded, he began to work with boxers in the basement of the Milwaukee Urban League headquarters.

For the next 22 years, and until his death in 1959, Gans turned out more champions than any Wisconsin boxing coach before or since. But the patient, kindly trainer taught the hundreds of boys who came to him much more than just how to hold up their hands in the ring. He also taught them how to hold up their heads and make the most of themselves as men and citizens.

"Joe's Boys" never forgot, and on September 9, 35 years after Gans' death, many of them gathered at a Milwaukee hotel to salute the man who had had such a positive impact on their lives.

"Whatever I needed, Joe Gans was there," said Charles Pope, 70, a Milwaukee amateur and pro ring star of the '40s who went on to become a teacher, lawyer, and judge in California.

One-time featherweight prospect Terry Book, now associate director of Alumni Relations at Marquette University, said, "Baby Joe was such a force in everyone's life." Book recalled that his first creative writing paper in college, an assignment to write about the person he admired the most, was about Baby Joe Gans.

"Joe Gans was not just about boxing," said Orville Pitts, a former world-ranked light heavyweight and later a Milwaukee alderman and court commissioner. "He was about discipline and getting the most out of life with what God gave you."

To help other inner-city Milwaukee youths do the same, Joe's Boys have established the Baby Joe Gans Memorial Scholarship Foundation, which has already provided 14 young people with money for college.

Said Foundation Chairman LeRoy Allen, "Joe always encouraged us to go to school. He said education is what really unlocks the doors to success."

–Pete Ehrmann

THE 10 REASONS LENNOX LEWIS IS SO DIFFICULT TO TRAIN

10. Insists on rinsing his mouth with Earl Grey decaffeinated tea, and not tap water, between rounds.

9. Being British, he feels obliged to fall down for 10 seconds per each round of sparring.

8. Is always rebuffing trainer, saying, "Frank Bruno doesn't do it that way."

7. Constantly battling depression brought on by severe identity crisis: If he fights in England and loses, he's Canadian; if he fights in Canada and loses, he's British.

6. Refuses to drop routine of practicing balance by walking on hot coals in bare feet.

5. Spends 75 percent of gym time soaking face in pickle brine in fear of becoming another Henry Cooper.

4. Finds infighting "uncivilized."

3. Fantasy is not fighting Mike Tyson, but playing polo with Prince Charles.

2. Maintains sparring sessions with 5'5" manager Frank Maloney keep him sharp. "No matter how hard he tries, poor Frankie can't seem to get inside," he boasts.

1. Won't answer unless referred to as *Sir* Lennox, and says he refuses to put out 100 percent until knighted by Queen Elizabeth.

THE FORGOTTEN OLYMPIAN

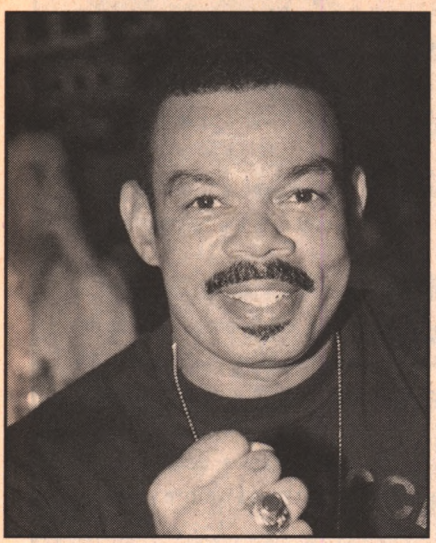


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Mooney: No fights, no regrets

At the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, bantamweight Charles Mooney was nicknamed "Captain Quick" and Howard Davis Jr. "Greased Lightning." It was assumed the boxers, along with the equally speedy Sugar Ray Leonard, would win gold medals and advance to stardom in the pro ranks. Davis and Leonard indeed became household names. For his part, Mooney won a silver medal—then chose not to turn pro.

Mooney's other nickname in Montreal was "The Old Man." At the time of the Games, he was 25. Afterward, he decided to remain in the Army. He had joined in 1970, and would stay for 22 years, retiring as a Sergeant First-Class in 1992.

"I really have no regrets," he says. "I never had any ideas toward being a professional until years later, when all my friends had so much success."

In the late-'70s, Mooney worked as a sparring partner for Leonard. He regularly resisted offers to turn pro and eventually settled into a routine of raising a family and working as an Ar recruiter.

Today, the 44-year-old Mooney lives Rockville, Maryland, where he runs T Academy Of Boxing, a non-profit organizati designed to keep kids off a wayward path. The are 60 fighters in the program, including handful of pro prospects.

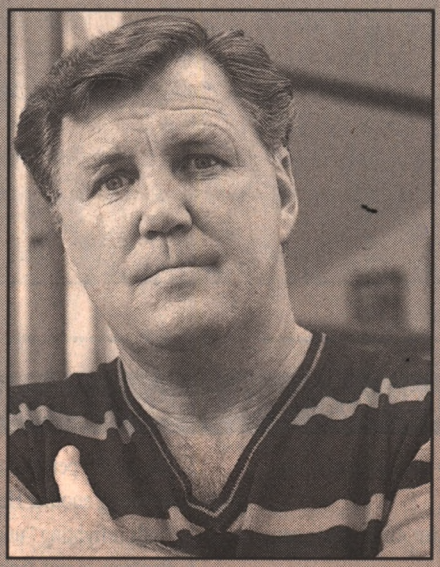
Given the riches earned by Leonard a Olympic teammates Leon and Michael Spink does Mooney ever wonder what his life mig have been like had he chosen a different path?

"The only thing," he says, "is I would ha realized I should have been fighting at 1 pounds. I would have gotten [U.S. featherweig representative] Davey Armstrong out of t picture, and there was no way I wouldn't ha won the gold. Who knows what would ha happened then."

–Robert Mladini

QUARRYS IN A QUANDARY

In a startling revelation about one of boxing's best-known fighting families, James Quarry has disclosed that his brothers, Jerry, Mike, and Robert, all suffer from pugilistica dementia, the Alzheimer's-like disease caused by too many punches to the head. Its symptoms are severe memory loss and frequent disorientation.



Quarry: "The temperament of a 12-year-old"

The most celebrated of the Quarry brothers is Jerry, 49, a former heavyweight contender who fought Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier twice each. Jerry's last bout was a six-round loss to Ron Cranmer two years ago in Denver. Mike Quarry, now 43, was a ranked light heavyweight in the '70s. In 1972, he was devastatingly kayoed by Bob Foster in a world title bout. The youngest Quarry, Robert, is a heavyweight of recent vintage who never approached the status of his brothers. He was bombed out by Tommy Morrison a couple of years ago.

All three Quarrys suffered "physical and mental damage" in the ring, according to James, who fought almost 100 amateur bouts of his own, including seven vs. Jerry, but never turned pro. The worst affected, says the 50-year-old loan officer and real estate appraiser, is Jerry.

"He has 60 percent short-term memory los [and] gets confused real easy," he says. "He has the temperament of a 12-year-old."

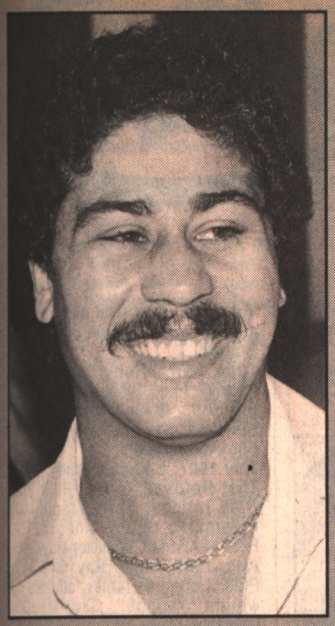
Because of his inability to care for himself, Jerry now lives with James in San Jacinto, California. The estimated $1.6-million earned by Jerry in the ring is gone, and he now receives a Social Security disability pension on account of his condition.

His brothers' situation, and the realization that there are many other former boxers in similar straits, have prompted James to launch, with $25,000 of his own money, the Jerry Quarry Foundation. The purpose of the non-profit, charitable organization, he says, is to assist "totally disabled fighters who can't get adequate income from Social Security so they can live decently."

"It's about time somebody tried to stand up and do something," says James. "There's nothing there to help support them now."

Queries about and donations to the Jerry Quarry Foundation may be directed to Cal Frye at 68130 Calle Las Tiendas, Apt. A, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240.

–Pete Ehrmann



Gomez: Legal problems

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Former three-division champion **Wilfredo Gomez** was arrested in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on charges of buying cocaine. At the time of the arrest, Gomez, 38, was free on bail pending a trial on domestic violence charges ... To no one's surprise, **Lennox Lewis**, who lost the WBC heavyweight title to **Oliver McCall** in September, has parted company with trainer **Pepe Correa**. Lewis' new trainer will be **George Benton**, who recently broke up with the Duva clan ... On October 7, former NABF junior welterweight champion **David Santos**, 28, was killed in a car accident in San Pablo, California. Santos, 20-4, was a native of Aurora, Colorado. He is not to be confused with **David Santos**, an unbeaten featherweight prospect from Florida.

THE PUNCHLINE

"He was no damn trainer. But I never knocked him for saying that he was."

-George Benton on Lou Duva, with whom he recently parted ways. Source: *Philadelphia Daily News*

VIDEO BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Acunto, the co-founder and president of the American Association for the Improvement of Boxing (AAIB), is one of those rare boxing-crazy people who really cares about the image and welfare of the sport. So it's fitting that the 48-minute tape he co-produced, *Boxing: More Than A Sport*, is a celebration of what's right about the Sweet Science. Co-produced and narrated by boxing author and former manager Peter Heller, the video is a potpourri of history, ring highlights, and gym instruction. Of particular interest is an instructional segment featuring Rocky Marciano, who, along with Acunto, founded the AAIB in 1969. There's also precious footage of Muhammad Ali and Willie Pep.

While the AAIB doesn't sell or rent the cassette, it is available for those willing to make a donation (minimum $35) to the non-profit organization's scholarship fund. For further information, contact Steve Acunto at 86 Fletcher Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10552.

-Steve Farhood

AL KRATZER'S VIEW

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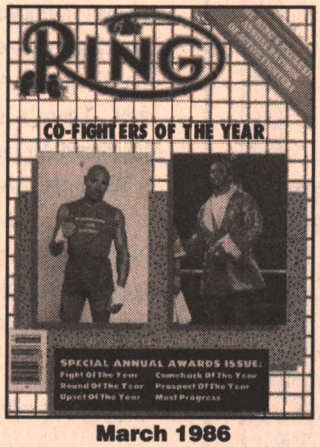

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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended November 5, 1994

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

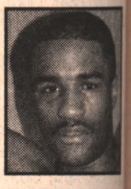
Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Egerton Marcus

Gerald McClellan

Oba Carr



Reggie Tuur

Welcome Ncita

Eric Griffin

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **GEORGE FOREMAN** — Houston, TX *73-4 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *25-5 (WBC Champ)*
3. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *34-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *35-1*
5. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *25-1*
6. **HERBIE HIDE** — England *26-0*
7. **LARRY DONALD** — Cincinnati, OH *16-0*
8. **LARRY HOLMES** — Easton, PA *61-4*
9. **HENRY AKINWANDE** — England *24-0-1*
10. **JORGE LUIS GONZALEZ** — Las Vegas, NV *20-0*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *41-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *43-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **THOMAS HEARNS** — Detroit, MI *53-4-1*
5. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** — Brooklyn, NY *19-0*
6. **CARL THOMPSON** — England *18-3*
7. **DAVID IZEQWIRE** — Washington, D.C. *16-0*
8. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** — Lexington, KY *23-2-2*
9. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *22-3-1*
10. **NORBERT EKASSI** — France *22-4-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *39-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *47-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *36-6-2*
5. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *24-0*
6. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *29-1*
7. **EGERTON MARCUS** — Canada *14-0*
8. **FRANK TATE** — Houston, TX *34-4*
9. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** — Chicago, IL *14-0*
10. **JEFF HARDING** — Australia *23-2*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *44-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** — England *39-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *40-0-2*
4. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *25-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA *43-2*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *38-5*
7. **TONY THORNTON** — Glassboro, NJ *35-6-1*
8. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *24-1*
9. **RAY CLOSE** — N. Ireland *20-3-1*
10. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** — Germany *37-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *26-0*
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL *31-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *32-0*
4. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *26-2*
5. **JORGE CASTRO** — Argentina *94-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
6. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *35-4-1*
7. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX *23-3*
8. **THOMAS TATE** — Houston, TX *29-3*
9. **STEVE COLLINS** — Ireland *28-3*
10. **JOE LIPSEY** — Lansing, MI *23-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. TERRY NORRIS
   Mission Valley, CA 38-4 (WBC Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
   Argentina 51-1 (WBA Champ)
3. VINCENT PETTWAY
   Baltimore, MD 37-4-1 (IBF Champ)
4. VERNO PHILLIPS
   New York, NY 23-4-1
5. GIANFRANCO ROSI
   Italy 57-4-1
6. JULIO CESAR GREEN
   Brooklyn, NY 18-1
7. SIMON BROWN
   Mount Airy, MD 42-3
8. CARL DANIELS
   St. Louis, MO 32-1
9. JAVIER CASTILLEJO
   Spain 36-2
10. RAUL MARQUEZ
    Houston, TX 17-0

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
   Norfolk, VA 34-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. FELIX TRINIDAD
   Puerto Rico 24-0 (IBF Champ)
3. IKE QUARTEY
   Ghana 27-0 (WBA Champ)
4. BUDDY McGIRT
   Hauppauge, NY 64-4-1
5. CRISANTO ESPANA
   N. Ireland 30-1
6. YORI BOY CAMPAS
   Mexico 56-1
7. WILFREDO RIVERA
   Puerto Rico 19-0-1
8. OBA CARR
   Detroit, MI 32-0
9. DERRELL COLEY
   Capitol Heights, MD 25-0-2
10. MANNING GALLOWAY
    Columbus, OH 51-12-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. FRANKIE RANDALL
   Warren, OH 50-3-1 (WBA Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
   Mexico 91-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. JAKE RODRIGUEZ
   Brentwood, NY 26-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. KOSTYA TSZYU
   Australia 13-0
5. JUAN COGGI
   Argentina 67-3-2
6. TONY LOPEZ
   Sacramento, CA 45-4-1
7. DAVID KAMAU
   Los Angeles, CA 24-0
8. GIOVANNI PARISI
   Italy 29-1
9. RAY OLIVEIRA
   Falls River, MA 23-5
10. DARRYLL TYSON
    Washington, D.C. 44-6-1

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
   Mexico 34-0 (WBC Champ)
2. RAFAEL RUELAS
   Arleta, CA 41-1 (IBF Champ)
3. NAZAROV OLZUBEK
   Japan 19-0 (WBA Champ)
4. JOEY GAMACHE
   Lewiston, ME 36-1
5. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
   Montebello, CA 14-0
6. MIGUEL JULIO
   Colombia 28-1-1
7. LEAVANDER JOHNSON
   Atlantic City, NJ 22-1-1
8. STEVE JOHNSTON
   Denver, CO 12-0
9. SHANE MOSLEY
   Pomona, CA 15-0
10. BILLY SCHWER
    England 25-1

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
   Puerto Rico 35-3 (IBF Champ)
2. GABE RUELAS
   Arleta, CA 39-2 (WBC Champ)
3. GENARO HERNANDEZ
   Los Angeles, CA 30-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. JESSE JAMES LEIJA
   San Antonio, TX 28-1-2
5. AZUMAH NELSON
   Ghana 37-3-2
6. FREDDIE LIBERATORE
   Bayside, NY 20-3-1
7. REGGIE TUUR
   Whitestone, NY 36-3-1
8. ARTURO GATTI
   Jersey City, NJ 18-1
9. VICTOR HUGO PAZ
   Argentina 49-1-1
10. ED HOPSON
    St. Louis, MO 24-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. KEVIN KELLEY
   Flushing, NY 40-0 (WBC Champ)
2. TOM JOHNSON
   Detroit, MI 37-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. STEVE ROBINSON
   Wales 19-9-1
4. ELOY ROJAS
   Venezuela 29-1-1 (WBA Champ)
5. YUNG KYUN PARK
   South Korea 28-2-1
6. ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ
   Mexico 33-2
7. TRACY PATTERSON
   Highland, NY 50-3-1
8. EVER BELENO
   Colombia 29-1
9. ORLANDO SOTO
   Panama 24-1
10. MANUEL MEDINA
    Mexico 49-5

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. VUYANI BUNGU
   South Africa 24-2 (IBF Champ)
2. WILFREDO VASQUEZ
   Puerto Rico 41-6-3 (WBA Champ)
3. HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ
   New York, NY 31-2-2 (WBC Champ)
4. JULIO GERVACIO
   Puerto Rico 30-3-2
5. KENNEDY McKINNEY
   Las Vegas, NV 27-1-1
6. WELCOME NCITA
   South Africa 33-2
7. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
   Mexico 33-0
8. JESUS SALUD
   San Diego, CA 48-6
9. JUAN POLO-PEREZ
   Colombia 35-10-2
10. MAUI DIAZ
    San Jose, CA 26-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. ORLANDO CANIZALES
   Laredo, TX 38-1-1 (IBF Champ)
2. YASUEI YAKUSHIJI
   Japan 22-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. DAORUNG CHUWATANA
   Thailand 53-4-1 (WBA Champ)
4. ELIECER JULIO
   Colombia 28-1
5. WAYNE McCULLOUGH
   Las Vegas, NV 14-0
6. NASEEM HAMED
   England 14-0
7. JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI
   Japan 10-1-1
8. SERGIO REYES
   Fort Worth, TX 10-1
9. AL KOTEY
   England 19-1
10. NANA KONADU
    Ghana 33-2

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. HAROLD GREY
   Colombia 17-0 (IBF Champ)
2. HIROSHI KAWASHIMA
   Japan 15-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. HYUNG CHUL LEE
   South Korea 18-4 (WBA Champ)
4. JOHNNY TAPIA
   Albuquerque, NM 27-0-1
5. JULIO BORBOA
   Mexico 23-5
6. KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM
   Thailand 49-4
7. DANNY ROMERO
   Albuquerque, NM 20-0
8. KATSUYA ONIZUKA
   Japan 24-1
9. CECILIO ESPINO
   Huntington Park, CA 29-3-1
10. SUNG KIL MOON
    South Korea 20-2

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. YURI ARBACHAKOV
   Japan 19-0 (WBC Champ)
2. SAN SOR PLOENCHIT
   Thailand 20-0 (WBA Champ)
3. PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN
   Thailand 20-0 (IBF Champ)
4. MARK JOHNSON
   Washington, D.C. 21-1
5. DAVID GRIMAN
   Venezuela 19-2
6. MIGUEL MARTINEZ
   Mexico 27-7-1
7. JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA
   Mexico 23-12-2
8. ISAIAS ZAMUDIO
   Blythe, CA 37-5-1
9. JAKE MATLALA
   South Africa 42-9-1
10. ALBERTO JIMENEZ
    Mexico 27-3-2

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
   Mexico 39-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
   Phoenix, AZ 32-1
3. LEO GAMEZ
   Venezuela 27-3-1 (WBA Champ)
4. MELCHOR COB CASTRO
   Mexico 41-4-4
5. ERIC GRIFFIN
   Jasper, TN 14-1
6. JESUS CHONG
   Mexico 26-5
7. LEON SALAZAR
   Panama 18-3-1
8. JOSE DeJESUS
   Puerto Rico 28-2-1
9. FAHLAN SAKKIRIN
   Thailand 27-2-1
10. ROBINSON CUESTA
    Panama 23-1

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
   Welterweight
2. JAMES TONEY
   Super Middleweight
3. ORLANDO CANIZALES
   Bantamweight
4. RICARDO LOPEZ
   Strawweight
5. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
   Junior Flyweight
6. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
   Junior Flyweight
7. ROY JONES
   Middleweight
8. GERALD McCLELLAN
   Middleweight
9. FRANKIE RANDALL
   Junior Welterweight
10. FELIX TRINIDAD
    Welterweight

NEW FACES

Alfred Ankamah

Welterweight

Photos by Brent Co

By Ivan G. Goldman

Alfred Ankamah hears a clock ticking. Everyone in his corner hears it, too. He started fighting late. He turned pro late. At 27, he has much to learn, and no time to learn it all. So there are moments he'll just have to rely on raw talent.

So far it's worked. The quick, solid welterweight, a 1988 Olympian from the back country of Ghana, has racked up 12 kayos in 12 starts, most of them at the Great Western Forum. The fight world is beginning to take notice of upstart slugger with a nurse for a manager, a doc for a cutman, and nitro in his combinations.

In his first 11 bouts, Ankamah fought less t 18 full rounds. Then came his 12th contest, dur which the soft-spoken banger learned there price to pay for being in a hurry.

The fight was against Mexico's Eduardo "T Hammer" Jacques, the kind of opponent m managers would like to keep their develop young fighters away from. But Ankamah and handlers heard that clock ticking.

Jacques, 26-19-3, had fought at a variety weights, going in against, among others, Oba Ca Darryll Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, Juan Coggi, a Terrence Alli. He lost to all of them, but usua went the distance—and made sure to leave ea one with something to remember. He fights ug mixing punches with headbutts, low blows, a elbows.

"I don't call fighters like Jacques dirty chuckles Forum matchmaker Tony Curtis. "I j say they're guys who are trying to win."

Against Ankamah, a favored tactic was seen the clinches, where Jacques repeatedly dug a glo into his opponent's eye, as if hoping to scoop ou pearl. Ankamah would have loved to ha dispatched this opponent as early as the previous ones, but he was fighting with a handica

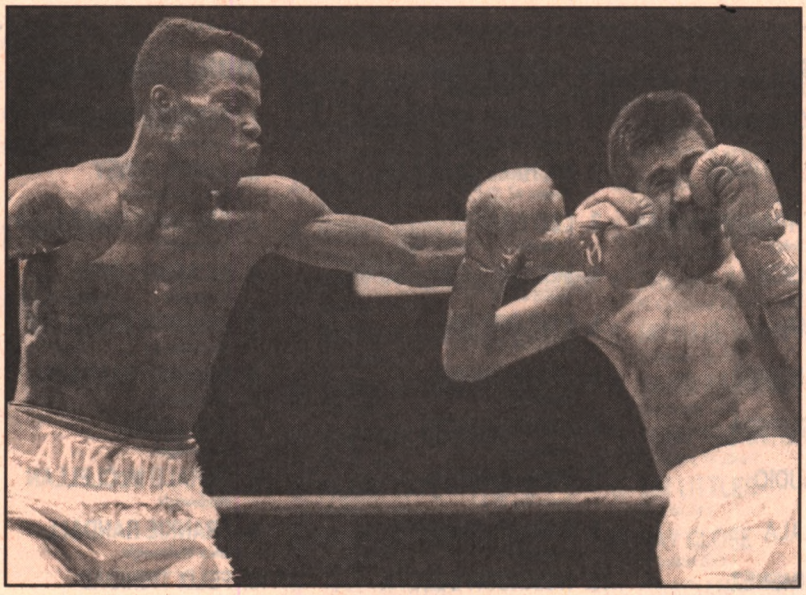
Two weeks earlier, his team had canceled

(Continued on page 5

PRO RECORD

1992		
Feb. 29	John Asibri, Accra, Ghana	KO 1
March 7	Johnson Adisiah, Accra	KO 2
Aug. 10	Justin Bandido, Accra	KO 1
1993		
April 17	Jeff Griswald, Bushkill, PA	KO 2
Oct. 11	Roberto Urias, Inglewood, CA	KO 1
Nov. 15	Rodney Jones, Inglewood	KO 3
1994		
Feb. 7	Ariel Cruz, Inglewood	KO 2
March 4	Angel Torres, New York City	KO 2
March 28	Billy Martinez, Inglewood	KO 2
May 9	Vincent Thompson, Inglewood	KO 2
July 8	Luis Tyson Vasquez, Inglewood	KO 2
Sept. 26	Eduardo Jacques, Inglewood	KO 8

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
12	12	0	0	12



Ankamah jolts Eduardo Jacques

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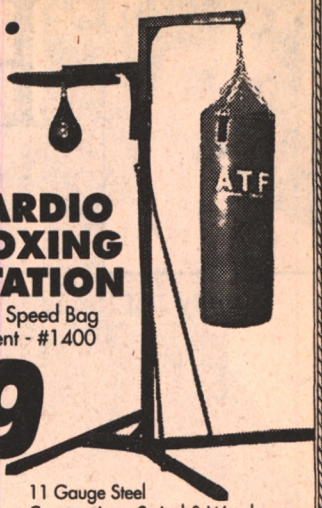

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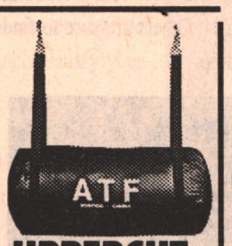

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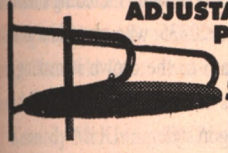

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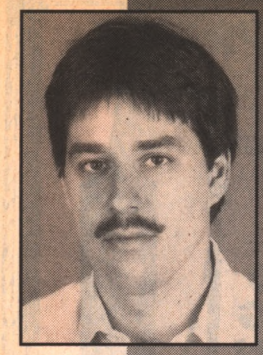


By Jeff Ryan

RYAN OUT LOUD

STOCKING STUFFERS

You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout, double-cross your manager, hit low, pull out fights, make excuses for defeats, take steroids, curse during postfight interviews with Larry Merchant, or come over the weight limit, I'm telling you why: Santa Claus is coming to town.

He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows if you've been bad or good, so b good for goodness sake. *And* for the sake of escaping this column unscathed.

Ho. Ho. Ho. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good fight. The holiday season is upon us, and in the tr spirit of Dasher, Dancer, and Prancer (also known as Virgil Hill, Steve Collins, and Michael Nunn), it's time spread a little Christmas cheer—and a little Christmas jeer. I'm making a list and the editorial staff is fac checking it twice. Gonna find out who's naughty and nice. This year, some boxing personalities will be spendi the 12 days of Christmas unwrapping candy canes. Others are sure to find coal in their stockings, and we're talking about Alfred "Ice," the cruiserweight champ.

WBA junior welterweight champion Frankie "The Surgeon" Randall gives wife Janice a big wet one upon learning he made Santa Ryan's "nice list" for 1994. Way to operate, Frankie.

For those of you who wer naughty this year, hey, there's no u crying over spilled eggnog. For tho who were nice, a line of Las Veg round card girls awaits you under t mistletoe.

Let's see what Santa has for ...

Michael Moorer: True, he fail to knock out a guy with a hea problem, and he showed no fire whi fighting for the heavyweight crow But let's look at the spit bucket as hal full, not half-empty. Moorer proved h could a) outbox a quality boxer, b) wi the biggest fight of his life witho Emanuel Steward in his corner, and win a world title while competing at pounds over his best fighting weigh *Any* heavyweight, including inma number 922335, who views him as easy path to the crown is making serious miscalculation. Stuff hi stocking in style.

Oliver McCall: Praise him for not letting Lennox Lewis get away with showing up disinterested an overconfident, but damn him for returning a portion of the heavyweight title to its former captor, Don King. Th one's a tough call, so Santa will compromise and leave Ollie a candy cane that tastes like a lump of coal.

Buddy McGirt: In his rematch with Pernell Whitaker, it appeared McGirt was as hampered by his surgicall repaired left shoulder as he was by that torn rotator cuff in their first showdown. Regardless, the classy Lon Islander refused to make excuses. He took his lumps like a sportsman, which is why he gets no lumps in h stocking.

Vinny Pazienza: I'm told that in *KO*, THE RING's sister publication, Paz called me a half-fast writer—o

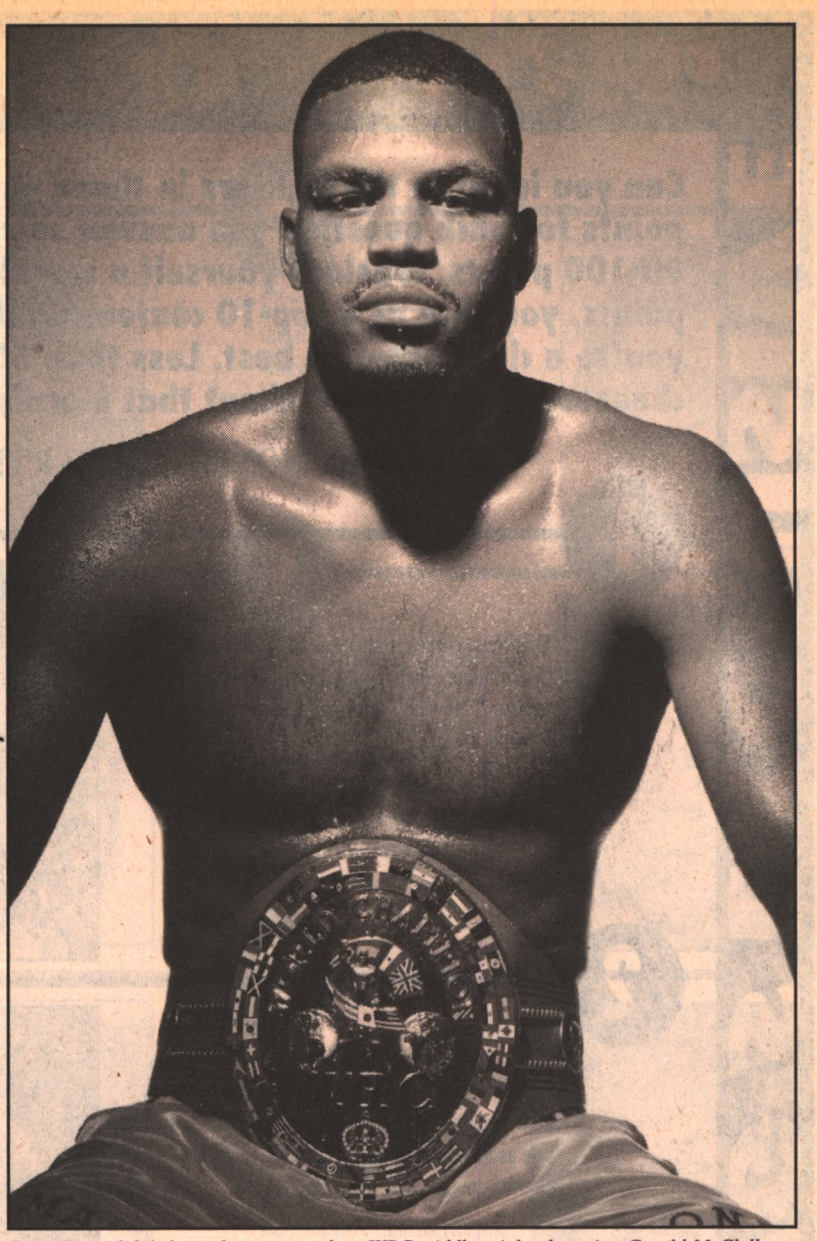
something to that effect. He also said if I want to try to be funny, I should work for *Mad* magazine. First of all, Vin, I'm much more than half-fast when Farhood is on my back on deadline. Second of all, I promise to no longer write anything that makes people laugh, such as the names of your last five opponents. That stocking of yours feel a little heavy, Pazman?

Frankie Randall: He didn't read his own press clippings. Had he done so, he would have learned he was supposed to have sacrificed body to help Julio Cesar Chavez regain face after the Mexican's embarrassing draw with Whitaker. Well, "The Surgeon" was one smooth operator, handing Chavez his first loss, and then smacking him around again before the sequel turned scandalous. For caning Chavez, Randall deserves a cane of his own. Red-and-white striped.

Teddy Atlas: A rare stand-up guy in a roll-over-for-whomever-is-paying-you-at-the-moment business, this Atlas didn't hold the world in his hands in April, just the world title. If a good baseball manager is worth five games to his team during the season, then strategist-cheerleader Atlas in the corner was worth two rounds to Moorer during the Holyfield bout. And that made the difference. Satisfy your sweet tooth, Teddy.

Larry Donald: As we went to press, he was slated to meet Riddick Bowe on HBO. No matter what the outcome, Donald has established himself as a serious heavyweight player. An infusion of new blood is just what's needed in a division whose arteries have been hardening. Santa is impressed.

Riddick Bowe: The former Olympian has gone from Seoul Man to Coal Man. Regardless of what happens in his shootout with Donald, Bowe gets a stocking full of fossil fuel because his 1994 has been a bust. Hate to hit a man when he's down, but come to think of it, Bowe did that to Buster Mathis Jr., didn't he? If those two lords of discipline, Larry Hazzard and Arthur Mercante, are meting out the punishment for my infraction, I'll fire away at "Big Daddy" and take my chances.



Santa Ryan didn't have the nerve to deny WBC middleweight champion Gerald McClellan a candy cane for Christmas. Does McClellan look like the kind of guy you'd want to deny?

Rock Newman: It is said you meet the same people on the way down that you did on the way up, but that's not necessarily true in Newman's case. Because he alienated everyone on the seven continents during Bowe's title reign, *nobody* will meet with him these days. He and Bowe went from being "The Gold Dust Twins" to being "The Coal Dust Twins" awfully fast.

Kennedy McKinney & Tracy Patterson: Great job, fellas. You spent so long dreaming about your dream fight that you both sleepwalked right out of what Eddie Futch calls "the throne room." Teasing us with talk of a unification bout and then stalling the fight was a very naughty thing to do. The shine is off your matchup, but that doesn't mean you still can't square off. Just print some posters and call it The Coal Bowl.

Gerald McClellan: In the ring, he's so naughty, it's nice. And the WBC middleweight king exhibits a real Christmas spirit. He hits so hard, he can deck the halls.

Gabe Ruelas: As a youngster, he sold candy door-to-door. Now he is selling himself as the best junior lightweight in the world, and we're buying. Gabe hit like The Babe against Jesse James Leija, and he would probably string up his fellow 130-pound titlists, Genaro Hernandez and John-John Molina, like a set of Christmas tree lights. Here's your candy cane, Gabe. Please, try not to sell it.

Julio Cesar Chavez: What the first Randall bout revealed was a sore loser in every way. I cut Chavez a break when he whined after the Whitaker fight because I believed that stubborn pride was what had helped make him so great. When Randall spanked him, however, the humbled should have been more humble. He wasn't. Because his chin is so sturdy, Chavez probably isn't headed for a mighty crash, and he may be the WBC super lightweight champion for as long as Jose Sulaiman and his cronies are willing to bend the rules. But if he keeps taking the shots to the snout that Whitaker, Randall, and even a washed-up Meldrick Taylor hit him with, it's going to be a real red-nosed reign, dear. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-8 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece o cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

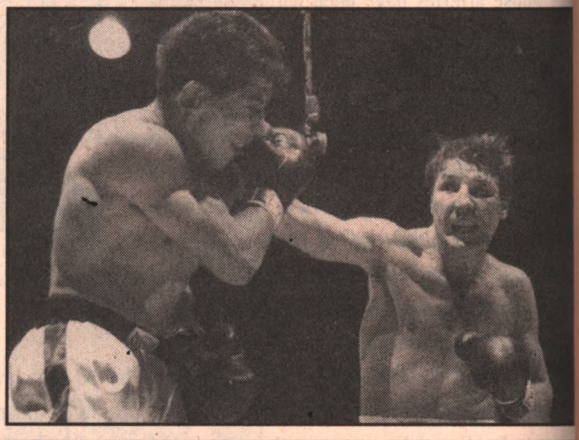
THIS MONTH: BOMBERS FROM THE BIG APPLE

1

This New Yorker (right) was heralded as a future hall of famer. Such a prediction, of course, is "poison." Now he's a former champ on the comeback trail.

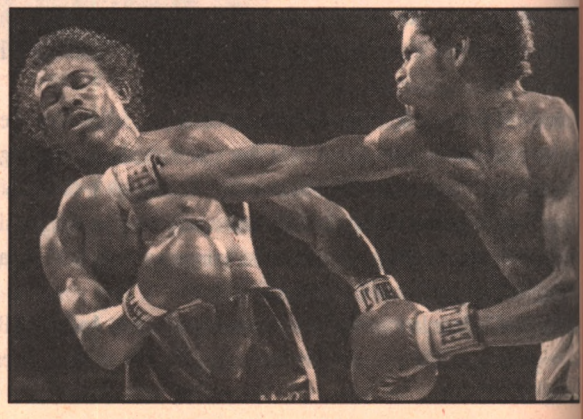
2

Boxing's had a lot of uncrowned champs, but perhaps none of them had as much a right to that title as this marvelously skilled boxer. In 126 career bouts, he was never floored.



3

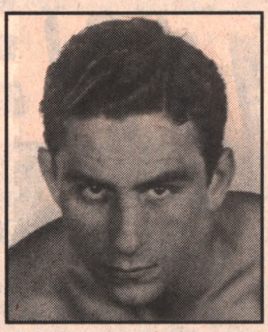
Don't let the photo fool you. This world champ was no home run puncher, but he possessed excellent counterpunching skills—and one of the best chins of his era.



YOUR BOXING IQ

4

This featherweight was a force throughout the '40s. He briefly held the NBA title, and in 1945 lost in a bid to unseat world champ Willie Pep.

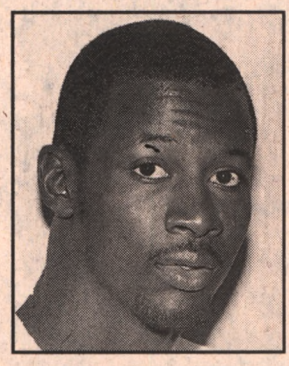


5

Like the great Benny Leonard, this diminutive boxer-puncher was a lightweight from the Lower East Side. He held the world title, but only for four months.

6

World titles came cheap for his heavily hyped Olympic hero. Despite winning a pair of belts, however, he failed to realize his full potential.



7

One of the hardest punchers of the '40s, this middleweight faced lots of championship-caliber opponents—Ceferino Garcia, Ken Overlin, Holman Williams, Georgie Abrams, Al Hostak, Sugar Ray Robinson—but never won the world title.

8

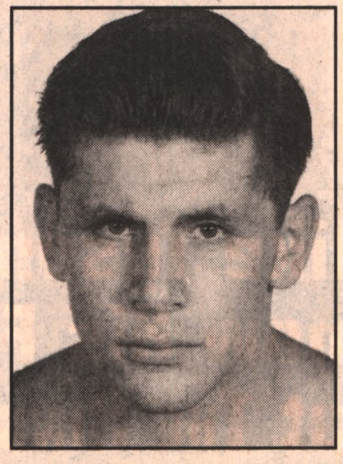
Among the best from Brooklyn, this light heavyweight won the world championship by defeating a legend. He kept the crown less than a year.

9

This perennial contender fought when the welters were at their strongest. He faced Pipino Cuevas, Wilfred Benitez, and Thomas Hearns, among others, but never won the big one.

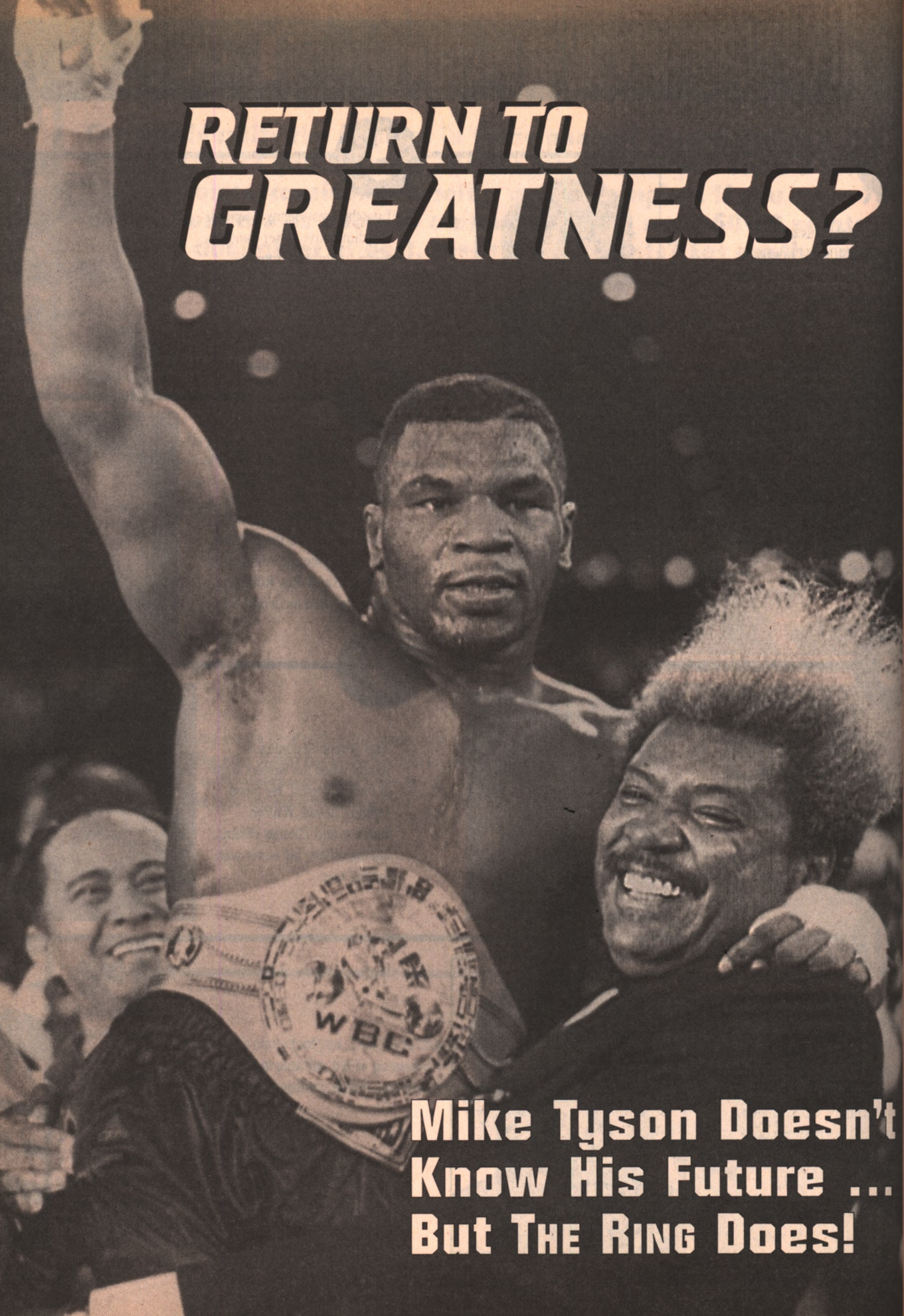
10

Even before Mike Tyson and Riddick Bowe, New York City produced its share of top heavyweights. This contender might've become a world champ, but he couldn't get past one of the all-time greats.



ANSWERS:

1. Junior Jones
2. Billy Graham
3. Saoul Mamby
4. Phil Terranova
5. Al Singer
6. Mark Breland
7. Steve Bellotse
8. Bob Olin
9. Harold Weston Jr.
10. Roland LaStarza


RETURN TO
GREATNESS?
WBC
Mike Tyson Doesn't
Know His Future ...
But The Ring Does!

By Nigel Collins

The moment the entire boxing world has been eagerly awaiting is upon us. Well, almost upon us. In just a few months, former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson will be released from prison and attempt to pick up the pieces of his boxing career. It promises to be the most publicized comeback since Muhammad Ali returned from exile in 1970.

Expectations from both fans and boxing insiders are exceptionally high, maybe unrealistically so. It's practically assumed that Tyson will singlehandedly resurrect the sport, much as he did when he first punched his way into our collective consciousness in the mid-1980s. Whether or not "Iron Mike" can recapture the glory of the past remains to be seen. One thing is for sure: The whole world will be watching him try.

Anticipation of a momentous occasion can be almost as much fun as the eventuality. You're not sure what's going to happen, but you know it's gonna be good. And during times like these, boxing junkies can't help but try to guess what's going to happen next. To this end, THE RING *has dusted off its crystal ball—the same one we (mis)use to predict the outcome of upcoming fights—and attempted to peek into the future.*

Due to the speculative nature of this venture, little of what follows is etched in granite. (Sorry, but you can't take it to the bank.) Nevertheless, the conjecture has been guided and shaped by current events and predisposed by the lessons of the past. Well, that and perhaps a small dose of wishful thinking.

May 9, 1995: Traffic is snarled bumper to bumper, clogging the rural road approaching the Indiana Youth Center with cars, vans, and TV production trucks. A handful of media members has been camped at the prison entrance (or should we say exit?) since early yesterday, staking out prime locations.

Finally, the big moment arrives. Mike Tyson, looking almost diminutive among the crush of bodyguards surrounding him, emerges, blinking into the bright sunlight of a gorgeous spring morning. Instantly, pandemonium reigns. Hundreds of cameras click at almost the same second. Microphones are shoved in Tyson's face. Reporters scream questions that are inaudible above the deafening uproar. The scene is straight out of a high-budget Hollywood movie.

Tyson, dressed in a T-shirt and jeans, is gently shoved forward by his entourage toward a limousine waiting at the curb. Just before he ducks inside, he turns around, looks at the clambering mob closing in around him, and raises both of his arms in the traditional boxer's victory salute.

Then a split-second later he's gone, whisked away in the limo, obscured by tinted window glass. But several observers, including those closest to the car, swear they catch a glimpse of a large black man with a protruding hairdo who is waiting for Tyson in the dark recesses of the luxury automobile.

Reporters and camera crews sprint after the car but rapidly fall behind as the vehicle gains speed, turns right on Route 40, and heads toward Indianapolis International Airport.

May 15: Tyson, who has not been seen in public since his release from prison six days earlier, is about to hold his first press conference. Security is so tight, you'd think Bill Clinton is the scheduled speaker.

The debate about who will promote Tyson's boxing career is settled as King mounts the podium, beaming like a man who has just discovered a winning lottery ticket in his wallet. After close to an hour of bombastic and self-absorbed rhetoric, King finally gets down to the nitty-gritty.

"Mike's first fight will be August 19 at Caesars Palace, exclusively on SET and KingVision," booms King, " ... against an opponent to be named later."

When King finally surrenders the spotlight, Tyson sounds like he's never been away.

"I don't know what else to say except that what's past is past and that it's good to be back," he begins. "I'm still the baddest man on the planet, and I still intend to go down in boxing history as one of the greatest heavyweight champions of all-time. But right now I just want to relax for a few days."

May 24: Tyson is photographed by paparazzi while cavorting at a nude beach in Negril. A Spartan training regimen it's not, but it beats the hell outta hanging out with Razor Ruddock and Greg Page.

May 31: Homeboys John Horne and Rory Holloway file a managerial contract with the Nevada Athletic Commission. Boxing writers from coast to coast file here-we-go-again stories. They won't admit it, but they love it.

June 1: Horne and Holloway announce Tyson will be trained by Emanuel Steward. Panama Lewis will act as technical adviser.

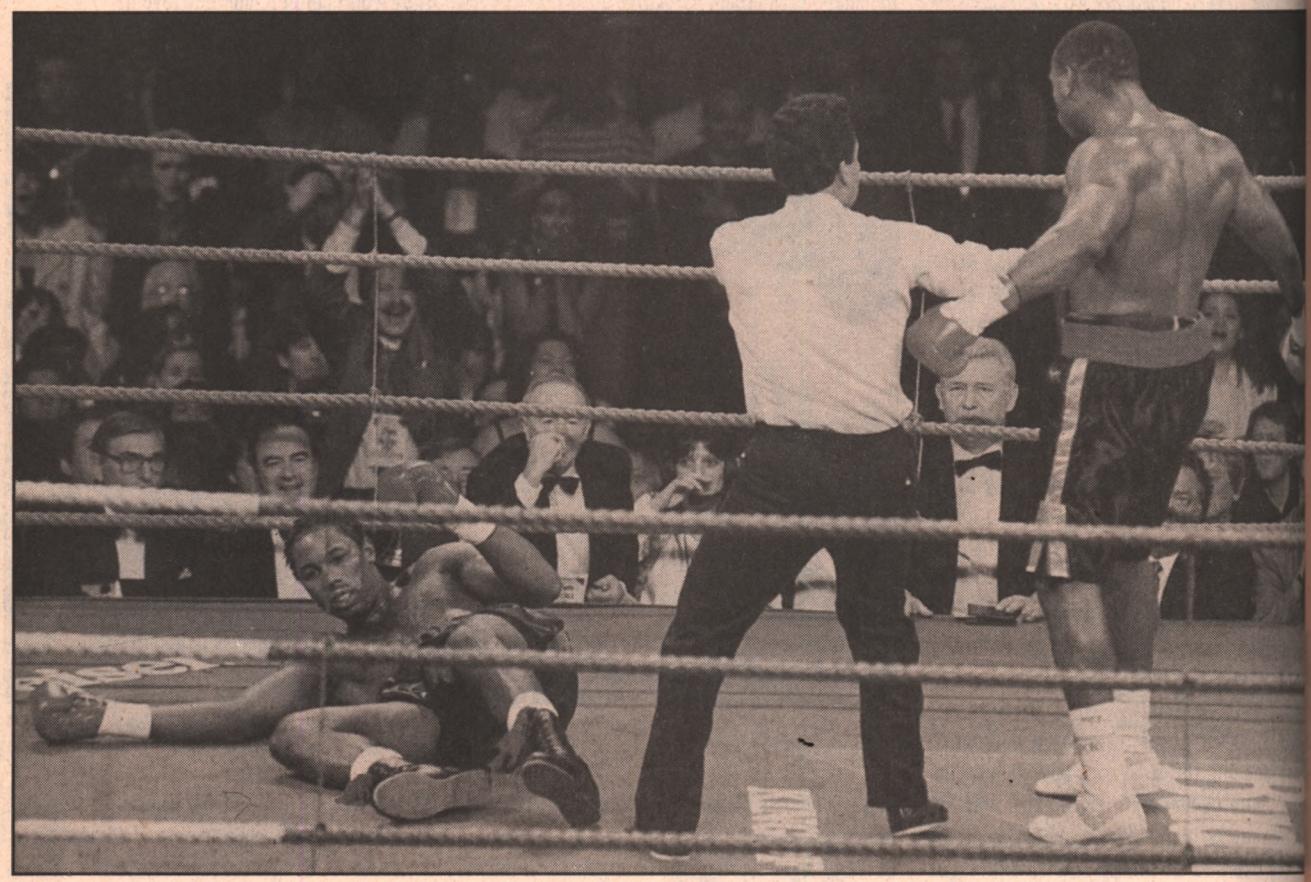
In his much-anticipated comeback bout three months after his release, Tyson drills a hook to the head of Adilson Rodrigues. To no one's surprise, the Brazilian lasted less than one round.

June 5: King's public relations director, Michael Marley, leaks news that Tyson's first opponent will be Adilson Rodrigues, undefeated in his last 27 fights—all in his native Brazil, and all against third-rate opposition. In his most recent bout in the United States (June 16, 1990), Rodrigues was iced in two rounds by George Foreman. Rodrigues doesn't have a great jab or a left hook. His specialty is apparently furthering the comebacks of former heavyweight champions.

June 15: Looking considerably heavier than when he was paroled, Tyson opens training camp at the Kronk Gym in Detroit. "I want to capture that old-time boxing feeling," he says. "You know, smell the liniment and stale sweat. Kronk is the perfect place for that. And there's no fight

(Continued on page 55)

CAN LENNOX LEWIS REBOUND FROM DISASTER?



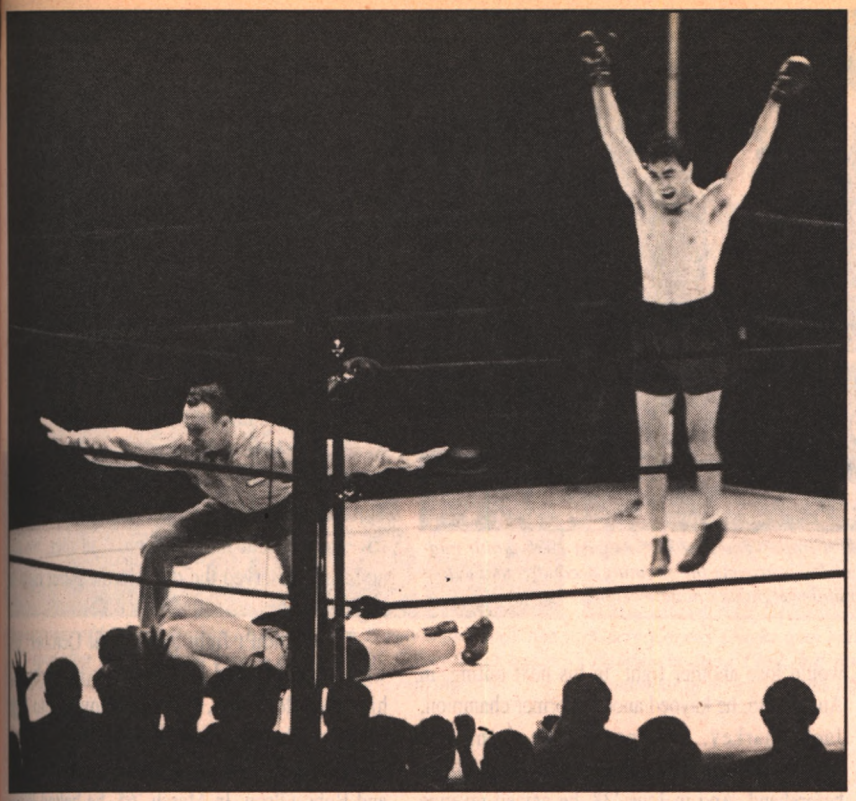
How will Lennox Lewis respond to his devastating kayo loss to Oliver McCall? History tells us he'll either ignore the defeat or allow it to ruin his caree

Why A Kayo Loss Isn't *Always* The En

By Steve Farhood

Only in boxing can a career turn in less time than it takes to snap your fingers. In one instant, Lennox Lewis was the unbeaten WBC heavyweight champion, the most successful British big man of the century, and an emerging superstar en route to an eight-figure payday vs. Riddick Bowe. In another, he was flat on the canvas, the result of one thunderous right hand delivered by Oliver McCall. And in another, he was stumbling in referee Jose Guadalupe Garcia's arms, a former titlist whose flaws had been exposed for all the world to witness. There were more than enough "I-told-you-sos" to go around.

So now we can be certain Lewis won't join Rocky Marciano as the only undefeated hea weight champions in history. But what else we know? That he'll never be the same figh Perhaps. That every heavyweight from "Do Boy" Tomashek to Mike Tyson will be gunn for that suddenly vulnerable chin? Probably. T it will be extremely difficult for him to regain former status? Not necessarily.



Max Schmeling's kayo victory over Joe Louis may have been the biggest upset of the '30s. But Louis rebounded to win the heavyweight title a year later over Jim Braddock, and then brutally kayoed Schmeling in the first round of a title defense in June 1938.

All we know for sure is what history tells us. Lewis, of course, isn't the first world-class fighter to suffer an unexpected and untimely kayo loss. There are two roads he can travel: the road to redemption, dismissing the loss as an aberration and suffering minimal damage to his confidence, or the road to ruin. What is his destiny? A look at five fighters who overcame such an overwhelming defeat, and five who failed to rebound, reveals that in all likelihood, for Lennox Lewis, the answer will come from within.

***

THE FIVE WHO DID

•Jack Dempsey KO by 1 Fireman Jim Flynn, Murray, Utah, February 13, 1917: When Dempsey first started demonstrating his prodigious power by knocking out no-names in Colorado mining towns like Montrose, Durango, and Salida, he was relatively unknown. That had changed, however, by the time he faced 37-year-old veteran Flynn in Murray, a small town outside of Salt Lake City. Dempsey was only 21, but he had already come East, and with a record of 26-1-5 (19), he was viewed as a future threat to heavyweight champion Jess Willard. What "The Manassa Mauler" needed was a victory over a name opponent. In that regard, Flynn was seemingly perfect.

Recalled the Fireman more than 20 years after his encounter with Dempsey, "Jack came out of his corner like a mad dog. I crossed a right to his jaw and he went down and out like a light."

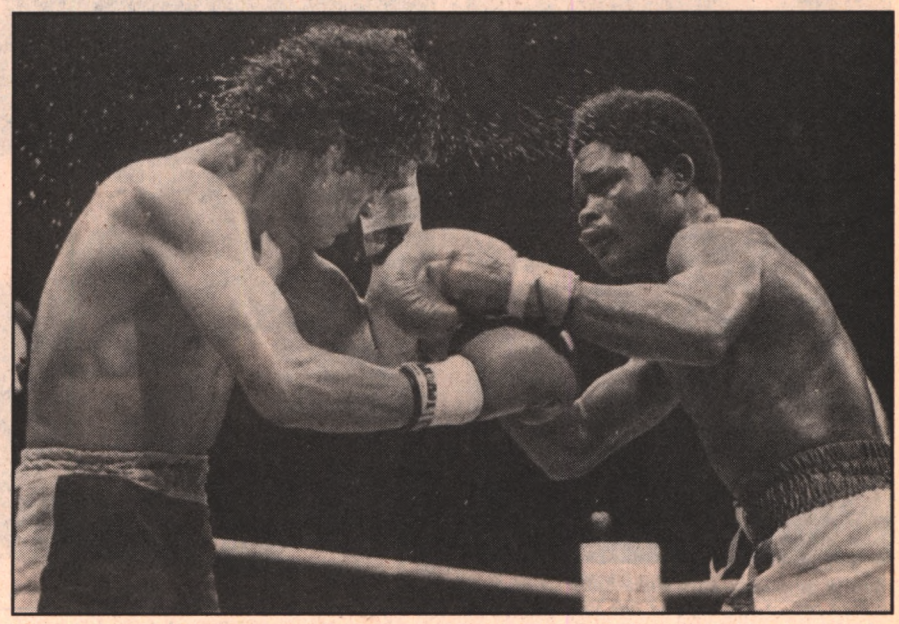
Sometimes, quickie kayo losses are the least damaging. Dempsey was back in the ring five weeks later. (His next seven bouts came against only two opponents, Al Norton and Willie Meehan.) By the end of the year, he was defeating such contenders as Carl Morris and Gunboat Smith, and in 1918, he established himself as a legitimate contender by topping, among others, Flynn (KO 1), Arthur Pelkey, Fred Fulton, and Battling Levinsky.

"With Dempsey, it was the enormous determination of the man," said historian and THE RING Publisher Stanley Weston. "He never believed at any time in his life that anyone could beat him. He just wrote the Flynn loss off as a fluke."

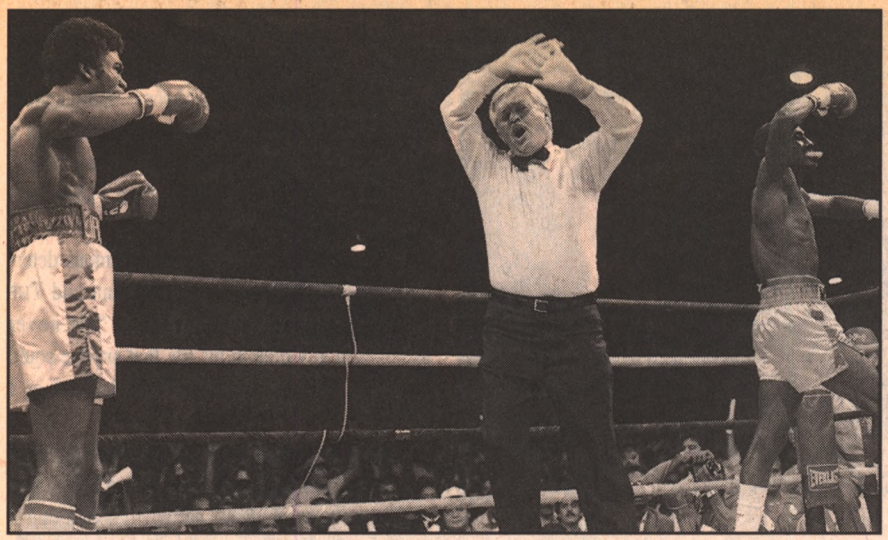
•Joe Louis KO by 12 Max Schmeling, New York City, June 19, 1936: Believe it if you care to: "The Brown Bomber" suffered his first defeat because of his golf game. One fight away from a try at world heavyweight champion Jimmy Braddock, the 22-year-old Louis, 23-0 (19), took former titlist Schmeling lightly. During the hours he was supposed to be sparring, he was struggling in sand traps. The aging German, meanwhile, studied his foe and spotted a flaw: Louis was a sucker for a counter right.

For three rounds at Yankee Stadium, Louis dominated with his jab. Then Schmeling started timing that punch. In the fourth, Louis experienced the first knockdown of his career, and from the sixth on, he fought on instinct. Schmeling punished him in the ninth, 10th, and 11th, and after Louis was downed by a roundhouse right in the 12th, he was counted out by referee Arthur Donovan.

The first thud was Louis hitting the canvas. The second was the sound of the sportswriters



Ghana's Azumah Nelson was virtually unknown when he challenged featherweight champion Salvador Sanchez in July 1982. After suffering a 15th-round kayo defeat, "The Professor" won the WBC title two years later and went on to become a dominant two-division titlist.



Much to Julian Jackson's dismay, referee Eddie Eckert stops "The Hawk's" August 1986 junior middleweight title fight with Mike McCallum. Jackson quickly overcame the stunning second-round defeat and became an exemplary champion at both junior middleweight and middleweight.

jumping off the Louis bandwagon. The prevailing sentiment: Louis hadn't been that good to begin with. Fortunately, the fighter still believed in himself. Wrote Chris Mead in *Joe Louis: Black Hero In White America*, "Louis holed up in a Harlem apartment, too embarrassed to go out ... But as much as he hurt, Louis never suffered any doubts about his boxing ability. He blamed himself, his overconfidence, poor training, and womanizing, for the loss, and vowed never to make the same mistake again."

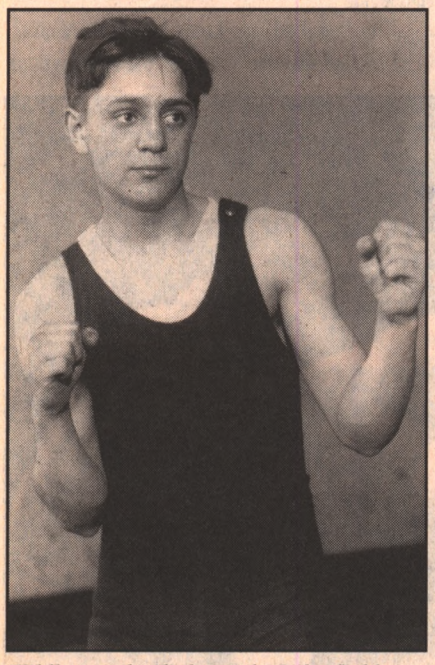
It would be more than 14 years before Louis would lose another fight. In his next outing, in August '36, he kayoed another former champion, Jack Sharkey. In June '37, he dethroned Braddock—and made sure to stay off the links beforehand. And in June '38, he gained revenge by halting Schmeling in one round.

•Jose Torres KO by 5 Florentino Fernandez, San Juan, May 26, 1963: It was a common scenario: 1956 Olympic silver medalist Torres was 25-0-1 (21), with only a 1959 draw vs. former welterweight champion Benny Paret tarnishing his record. And Cus D'Amato, Torres' astute and cautious manager, was certain the hard-punching Fernandez was near the end; in 1962, three of the Cuban's four defeats had come by kayo. But the last thing a puncher loses is his power, a fact the pro-Torres crowd at Hiram Bithorn Stadium realized in round two, when Fernandez dropped the favorite with a right to the jaw. Torres fought back, opening cuts around both of Fernandez' eyes, but the Cuban seemed inspired by the knowledge that he could hurt his opponent. A handful of bodyshots dropped Torres in the fifth, and he was hanging limply on the ropes when the bout was stopped.

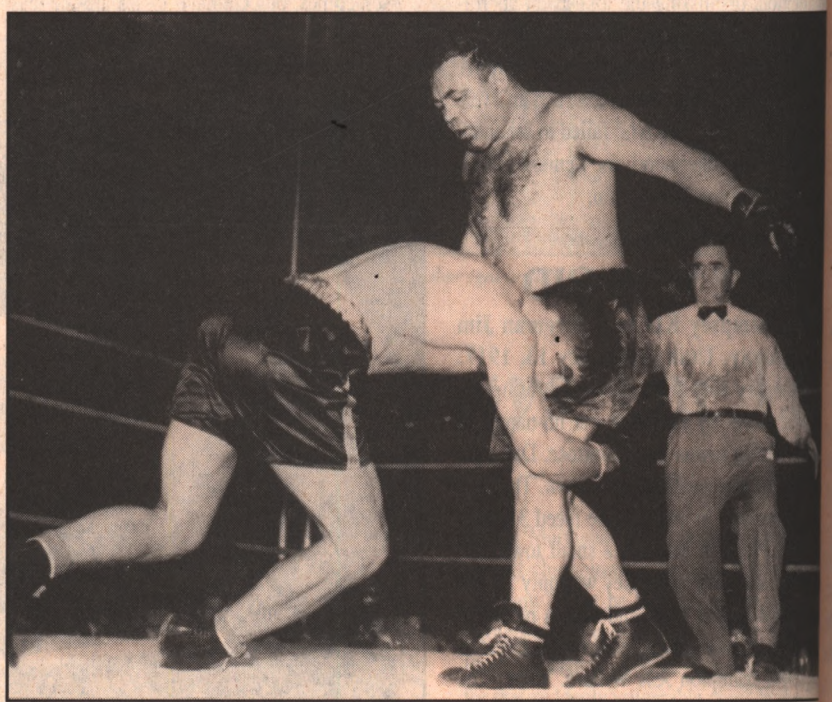
"People here at that given moment felt he just didn't have any guts; we were very down on Torres," said correspondent Mario Rivera, who covered the bout for THE RING. "In fact, we felt he hadn't deserved the draw in the Paret fight to begin with."

Torres didn't fight again until October 1964, when he outpointed Don Fullmer. He picked up his schedule in '64, when he moved into light heavyweight title contention by defeating Joe Gonzalez, Wilbert McClure, Gomeo Brennan and Bobo Olson. In March '65, he halted Willie Pastrano to capture the world 175-pound crown.

"I understood exactly what happened in the Fernandez fight," said Torres. "I was winning every round, hitting him with every punch, and he wasn't going anywhere. As Cus explained to me afterward, I got discouraged and stopped throwing punches. At the start of the fifth round

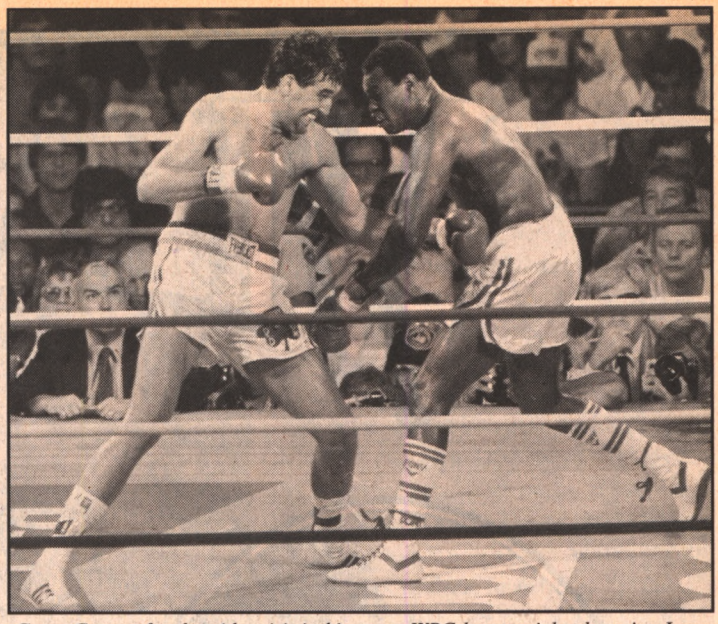


Wildly popular lightweight Ruby Goldstein turned pro at age 18, and one year later was kayoed by contender Ace Hudkins. Though still a teenager, "The Jewel Of The Ghetto" never fully recovered from the knockout loss.



In what the Associated Press described as "the most brutal bout of modern times," Tony Galento massacres rising heavyweight Lou Nova at Municipal Stadium in Philadelphia. "The fight ruined me," Nova said years later. Nova did get a long-awaited shot at Joe Louis, but he wasn't the same fighter as before

The support of his wife Patricia aside, Chuck Davey didn't look like a TV star after his title fight loss to Kid Gavilan. Davey never again contended and fought only nine more times before retiring.



Gerry Cooney fought with spirit in his try at WBC heavyweight champion Larry Holmes in June 1982, but nonetheless suffered a 13th-round TKO defeat. The remainder of his career was filled with injuries, inactivity, and self-doubt.

I was dizzy before I even got hit, so I knew there was something wrong with me. It wasn't that Fernandez was a better fighter. Once I realized what had happened, I learned from it."

•Azumah Nelson KO by 15 Salvador Sanchez, New York City, July 21, 1982: It's presumably easier to rationalize a kayo defeat when you've been beaten by one of the best. Nelson, 24, wasn't supposed to face dominant WBC featherweight champion Sanchez in the first place. Subbing for the injured Mario Miranda, he took the Madison Square Garden fight on three weeks notice. It wasn't as if the challenger was without credentials; at 13-0 (10), he was the Ghanaian, African, and Commonwealth champion. Nor was he lacking in confidence. If Sanchez was anticipating a showdown with lightweight champion Alexis Arguello, Nelson told the press, he'd pay the price for looking ahead. It was bold talk from a substitute with virtually no world-class experience.

Nelson fought brilliantly, especially early in the fight. But in round seven he was felled by a left hook, and in both the eighth and ninth he was staggered. After 14 spirited rounds, Sanchez led on two of the three cards. Fatigued and squinting through a badly swollen right eye, Nelson was all fought out. He was dropped again in the final round and rescued by referee Tony Perez 71 seconds from the closing bell.

Despite suffering a late-rounds beating, Nelson viewed the fight as a positive experience. "I was never discouraged," he recently told *Boxing News*. " ... They saw the next champ." His potential was realized two years later, when he punished Wilfredo Gomez to win the WBC title. He reigned for more than three years, then added the junior lightweight title to his resume. While his ring future is now in doubt, he's a sure bet to eventually be elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

•Julian Jackson KO by 2 Mike McCallum, Miami Beach, August 26, 1986: In retrospect, this may have been the least-publicized great fight of the '80s. Defending WBA junior middleweight champion McCallum, 29, was 26-0 (23); the 25-year-old Jackson was 29-0 (27). A candidate for Fight of the Year? There was minimal prefight hype and little postfight newspaper coverage. Go figure.

The fight was thrilling while it lasted. Jackson, making a huge jump in class, almost finished the champion in round one, shaking the steel-chinned McCallum with a hook to the chin. However, when the Virgin Islander went for the finish in the second, McCallum showed his class. A counter-combination floored the challenger, and later in the round he was saved by referee Eddie Eckert while trapped along the ropes.

"When the referee came in and stopped the fight, I said to myself, 'You can't have it your way all the time,'" Jackson told *KO Magazine* in 1992. "Looking back at that fight, it really opened up my eyes. I learned that in order to be great, you have to show that you can come back from a defeat and really assert yourself."

Jackson certainly did that, winning the vacant WBA 154-pound title one year later, and then, after vacating in 1990, adding the WBC middleweight crown, which he held for 2½ years. It helped, of course, that he never fought McCallum again.

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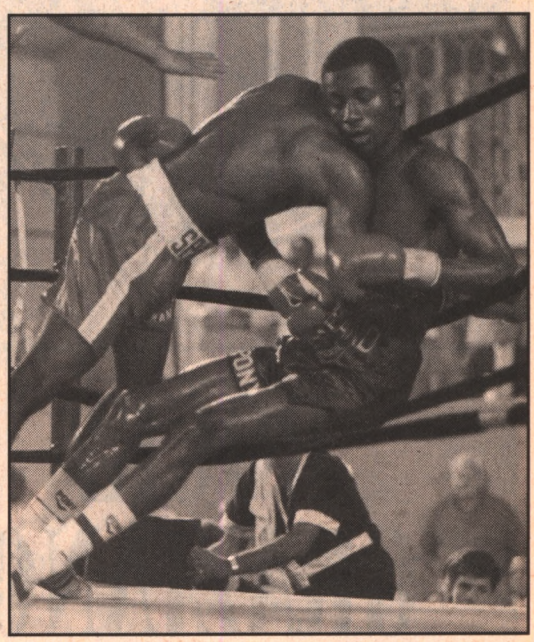
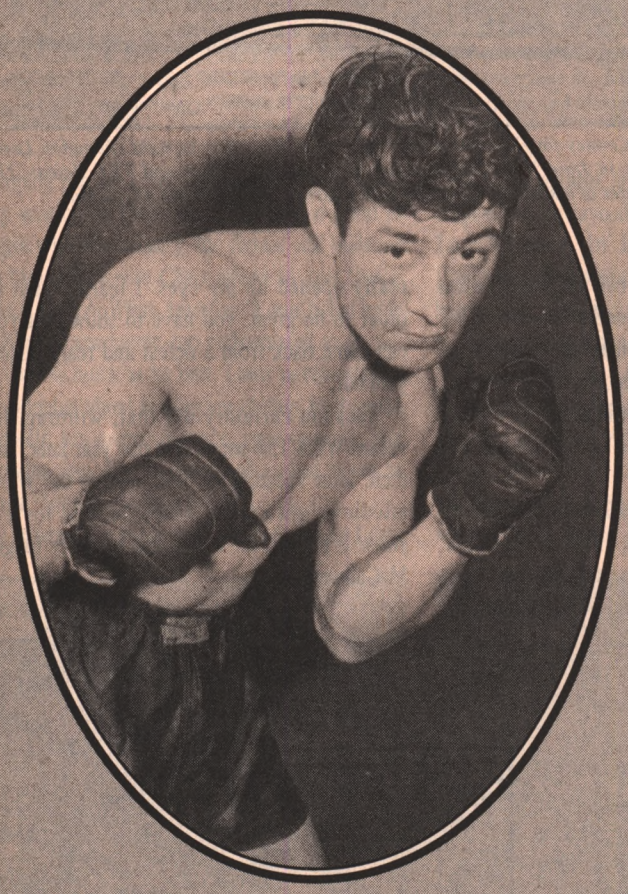
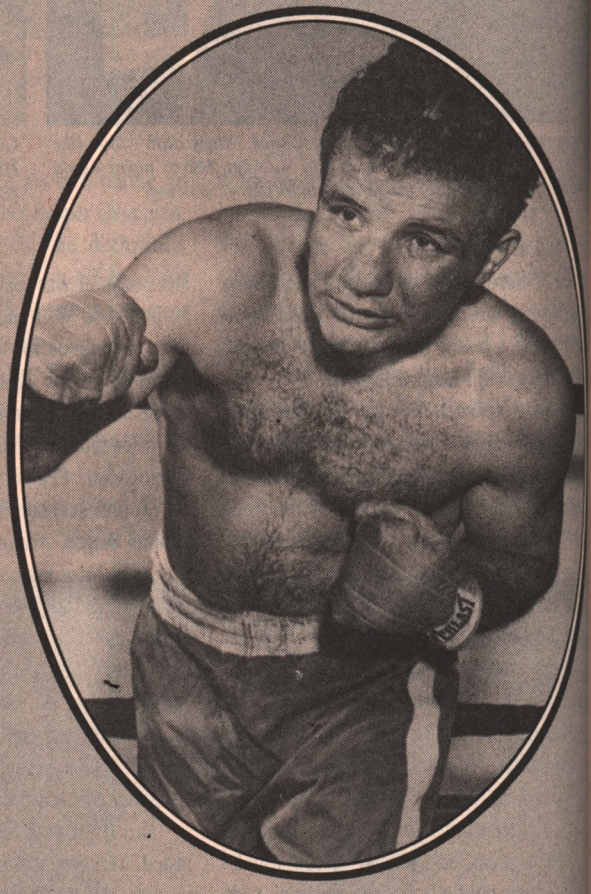


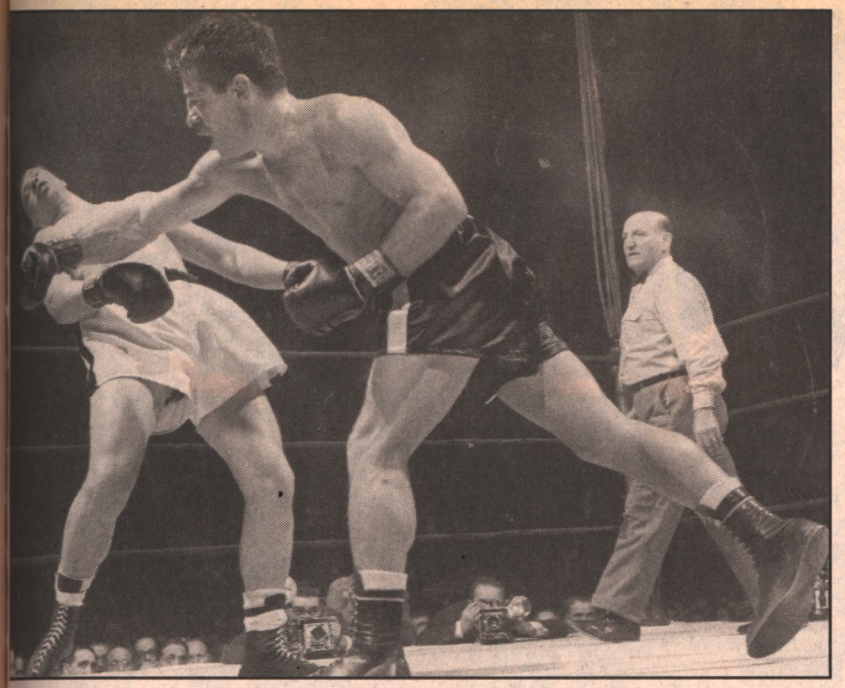
Mark Breland seemed particularly frail during his welterweight title defense against wily veteran Marlon Starling. When the challenger landed a tremendous left hook in the 11th round, the myth of Breland was shattered.

WHAT IF....





ROCKY GRAZIANO vs. JAKE LaMOTTA



Graziano's powerful right cross was perhaps the most lethal weapon in the middleweight division, as Tony Janiro discovered during their draw in March 1950. Graziano won 52 fights by kayo.

Most of boxing's best matchups are realized. But not all of them. For a variety of reasons, including timing, injuries, and promotional concerns, the fights we most want to see—the fights that could change history—sometimes fail to materialize. When that happens, we're left with our imaginations, which makes for never-ending conjecture and delightful debate.

With the help of Jim Trunzo, boxing's foremost computer programmer, and TKO Professional Boxing, by Lance Haffner Games, The RING has once again decided to play matchmaker. (In 1991, Trunzo helped us with "THE RING All-Time Computer Tournament.")

The computer program runs in compiled BASIC and consists of several thousand lines of code. More than two-dozen routines and sub-routines cross-check such factors as ring position, the fighters' physical condition, accumulated damage, status of cuts, and special strategy, if any, that is used. In addition, almost 100 variables are constantly monitored during a given fight.

We've presented Trunzo with a handful of dream matchups, fights that could have taken place but never did. His program considers more than 100 variables, and he runs the matchups through his computer 20 times each. What if Jack Dempsey had fought Harry Wills? What if Roberto Duran had fought Alexis Arguello? What if Rocky Marciano had fought Floyd Patterson? Here are some of the answers.

THE WAY IT WAS

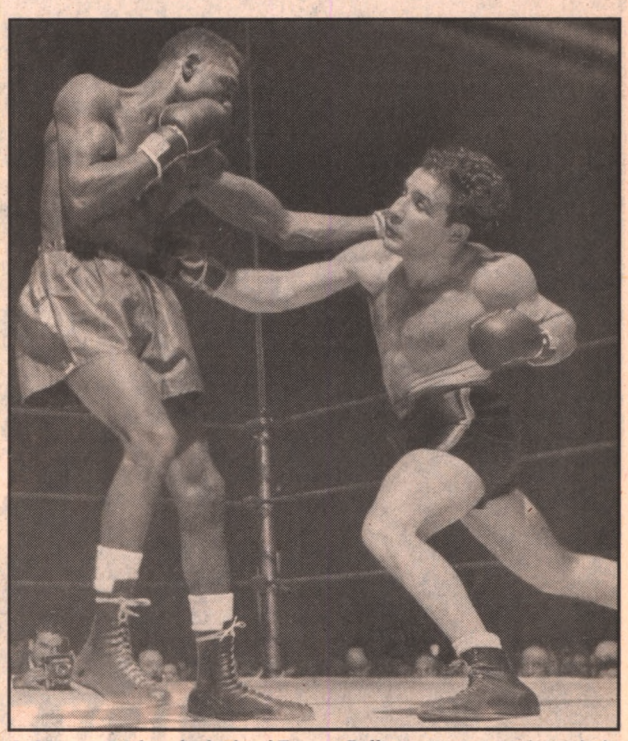
The year 1950 was a very good year for sports in general, and for New York in particular. The Yankees, under new manager Casey Stengel, had won the World Series in '49, and would repeat in '50; the Giants were a force in professional football; and boxing flourished in every borough of the city. Much of the focus was on the middleweight division, which offered some of the most attractive matchups. Sugar Ray Robinson had abandoned his stranglehold on the welterweight division and was moving up in weight; hotshot Randy Turpin was making waves on the other side of the pond; tough Dave Sands was ranked among the top three contenders; and a host of other fighters were pushing for a title shot. Holding sway over the entire division was "The Raging Bull," Jake LaMotta.

LaMotta had ascended to the throne after taking the title from Marcel Cerdan. Because of the controversy brought on by the bout (the Frenchman was hindered by a shoulder injury), Cerdan was scheduled as the opponent for LaMotta's first defense. However, the Frenchman's tragic death prevented the highly anticipated rematch. A year would pass without the middleweight crown being put on the line, and the public clamored for LaMotta to defend. Although Robinson and Turpin, among others, were legitimate candidates for the honor, LaMotta chose popular brawler Rocky Graziano.

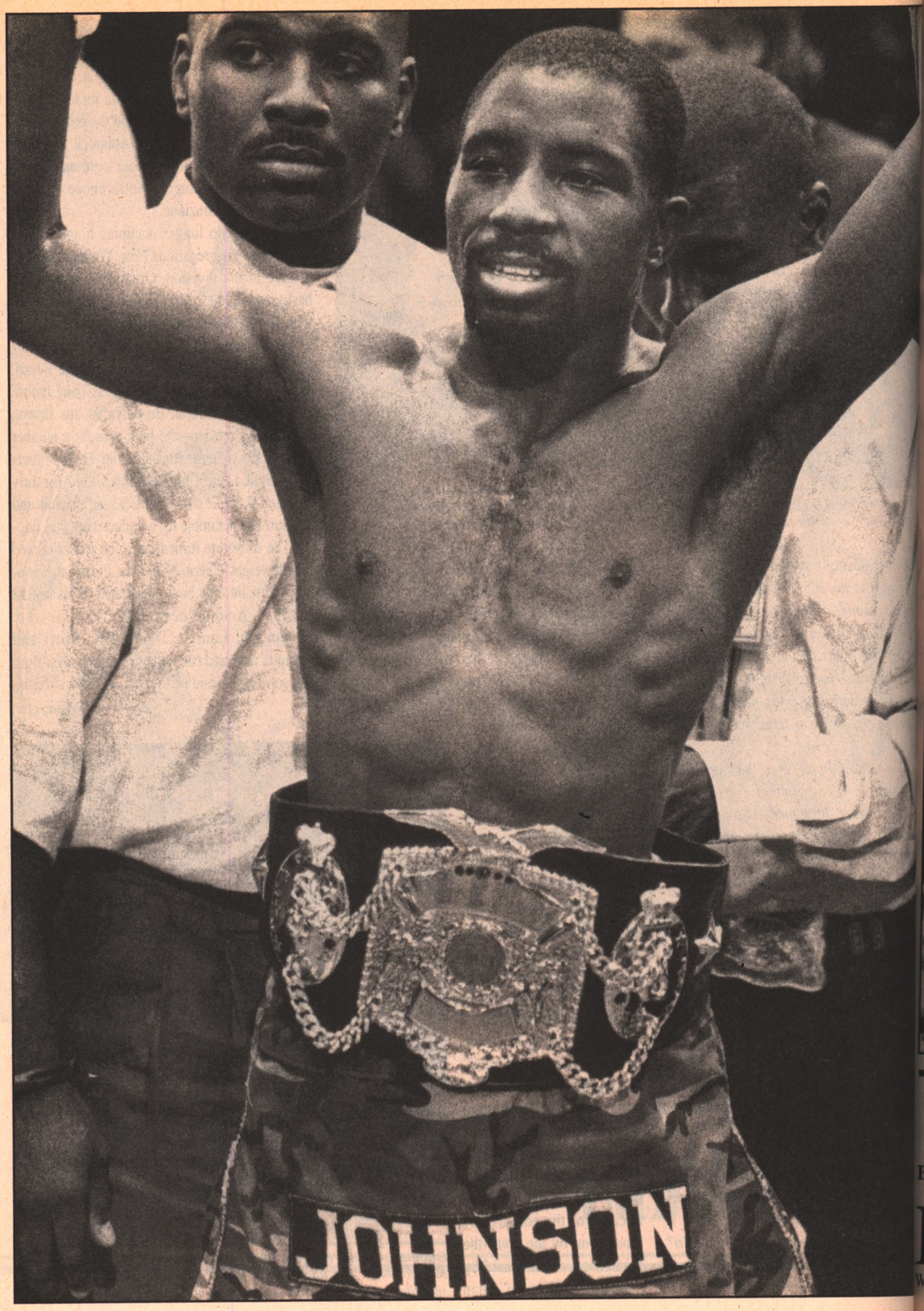
Graziano no longer occupied a spot in the top-10, but the gregarious New Yorker remained a force in the division. Graziano continued to bask in the glow of his classic three-bout series with Tony Zale. He had also proven his resilience by rebounding from his second loss to Zale, scoring a sensational win over tough Charlie Fusari, and earning a draw with world-class Tony Janiro. Graziano vs. LaMotta, Brooklyn vs. the Bronx, brawler vs. brawler—the bout brought a number of attractive features to the table. The contracts were signed, the fight was scheduled for July 12—and then Graziano hurt his right hand and fell out. The scramble for a replacement was on.

The substitute turned out to be fourth-ranked middleweight Tiberio Mitri. The European champion came into the bout undefeated in his last 52 matches. Among the Italian's victims were Turpin and Laurent Dauthuille. Mitri and LaMotta mirrored each other in some ways: Both had solid chins, and neither had an overpowering

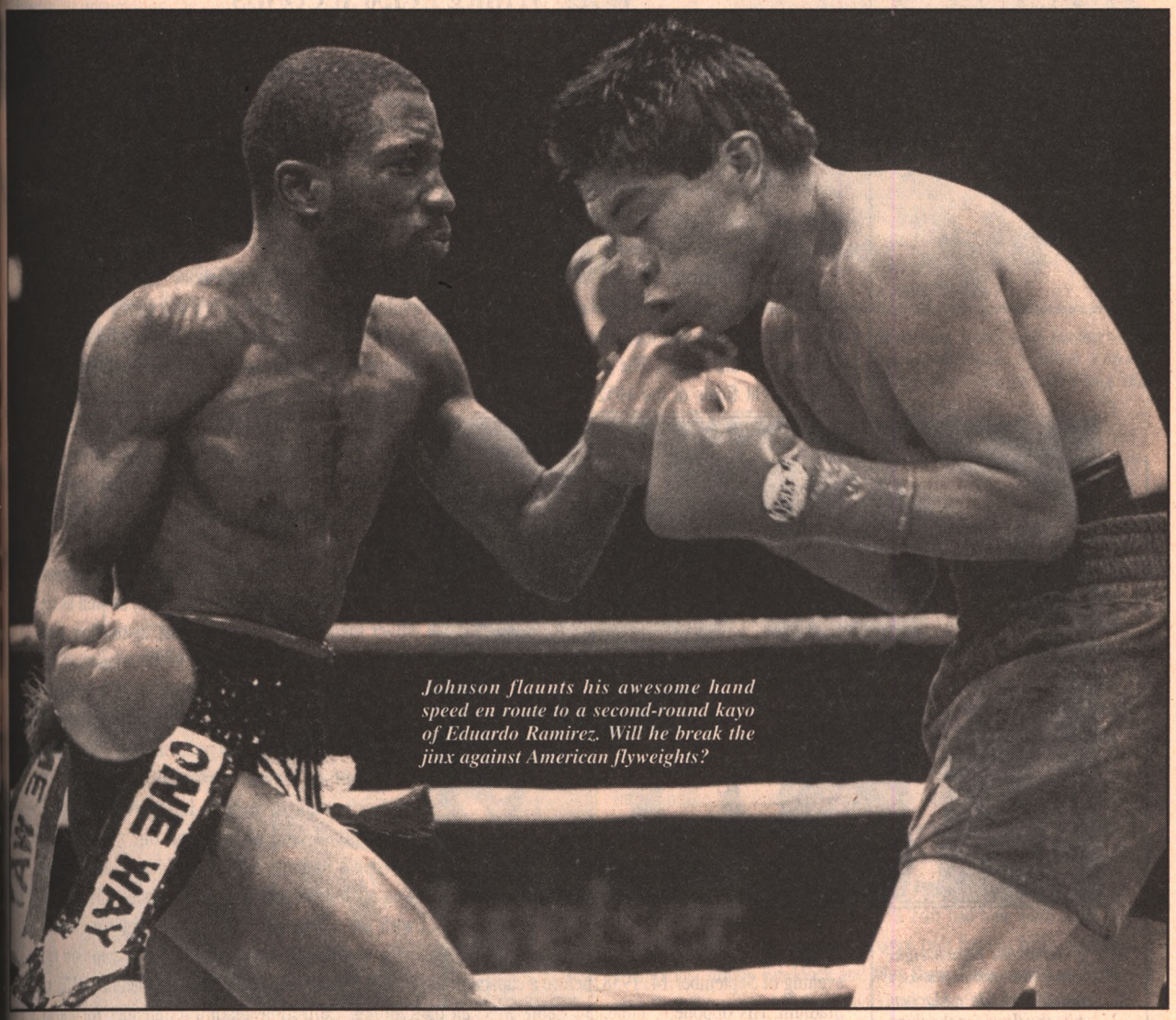
(Continued on page 58)



LaMotta punishes the body of Tommy Bell en route to a points win in March 1947. "The Raging Bull" faced a handful of contenders before securing a shot at the title against Marcel Cerdan in June 1949.


JOHNSON

Sensational 112-POUNDER MARK JOHNSON



Johnson flaunts his awesome hand speed en route to a second-round kayo of Eduardo Ramirez. Will he break the jinx against American flyweights?

There's No Swatting This Fly

Photos by Brent Cook

By **John Scheinman**

By the ninth round, Mark Johnson had finally gained control over undefeated 18-year-old Roberto Alvarez. Johnson, a flyweight from Washington, D.C., was making his fourth straight appearance at the Great Western Forum—and he was about to make Alvarez his fourth straight victim.

And the predominantly Mexican crowd didn't like it.

After a fifth round for which he was booed for his masterful display of jabbing and boxing, Johnson decided that he'd just plain fight. For a moment, he paid the price. Alvarez staggered him in the sixth with a down-the-middle right to

(Continued on page 60)

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

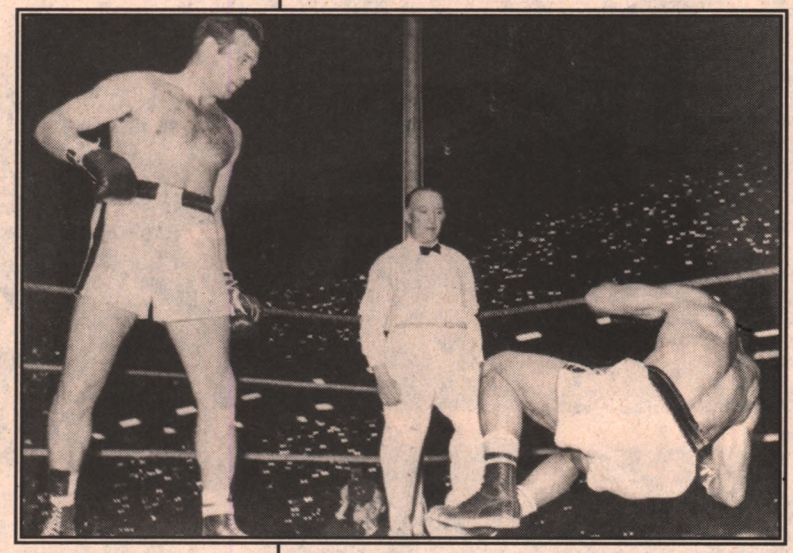
TIME CAPSULES

GOLD STRIKE IN 136 SECONDS

(September 14, 1958)

Two undefeated heavyweights. One of them ranked the number-one contender for the world championship. Fifty-five thousand wild-eyed, hotly partisan fanatics shell out a whopping $280,000 to fill every seat in Goteborg, Sweden's, huge soccer stadium. The place jumps with the tension and intrigue unique to major international heavyweight boxing matches. This one has a handsome Adonis, the hometown idol, going against an equally appealing hunk of masculinity from America. This is the stuff that makes for a promoter's fondest dream. But this was just the beginning. What happened that unforgettable night became one of boxing's major upsets.

Ingemar Johansson: 6' tall, 198 solid pounds, one month short of his 26th birthday. His perfect record of 26 victories includes 13 knockouts and sustains the evidence that he can drop a horse with a single shot from his right fist. (In their uncontrollable enthusiasm, Swedish newspapers sometimes substituted an elephant for the horse.) The only blemish on Ingo's otherwise spotless record was that incident in the heavyweight finals of the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, when, against American Ed Sanders, he backpedaled and actually ran away despite repeated warnings. Finally, the referee, a Frenchman named Vaisberg, became so exasperated that he disqualified Ingo in the second round.



Number-one heavyweight contender and previously undefeated Eddie Machen hits the floor for the third and final time in the first round after being brutalized by the unbeaten Ingemar Johansson.

To further compound Ingemar's punishment, the judges denied him second place, as well as the silver medal that goes with that distinction. And when the awards were made to the winners of the heavyweight boxing competition in that inspiring Olympics ceremony, when medals were presented and national anthems played, this time the second place platform remained strangely empty.

Four months later, Ingo debuted as a professional, and in less than one year he was Sweden's national hero. The disaster at Helsinki was all but forgotten as news about this Viking with the power of Thor in his right fist flashed around the world. But Ingo had yet to be tested against a world-class opponent. The test came on the evening of September 14, 1958, before a capacity house (55,079 fans paid $283,768) at Goteborg's Ullevi Stadium. His opponent: unbeaten Eddie Machen of Redding, California, leading contender for Floyd Patterson's heavyweight crown.

A little more than a minute after the opening bell, 3-1 favorite Machen was sprawling on the canvas, his whole body heaving, as if gripped by convulsions. He just managed to beat the count. Then the same jolting right to the jaw that dropped him the first time exploded again, 42 seconds later, with the same devastating results. Again the stricken American staggered upright. He should have stayed down. Johansson slugged him with an avalanche of rights and lefts to the head, sending him down a third time, this time for the countout. The time: a mere 2:16.

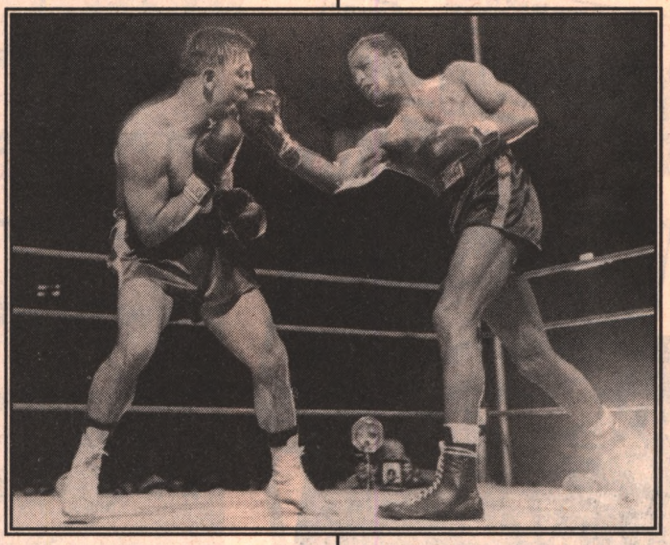
Nine months later, in New York City, heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson fared only slightly better than had Machen. About five minutes better. It took the mighty Swede less than three rounds to separate Floyd from his vaunted throne with his now-famous right hand.

MR. WONDERFUL, MR. PERFECT, MR. ROBINSON

(June 5, 1950)

Instructional boxing books must rely mainly on drawings to illustrate the way things should be done, because it is virtually impossible to find definitive action photographs that can do the job. The most difficult of the punches to teach an aspiring beginner, or even an experienced professional, is the uppercut. Artists who create instructional drawings admit they delay attacking the uppercut problem as long as possible because of all the headaches that go with it. Too bad some author or illustrator missed this picture of Sugar Ray Robinson delivering what is unquestionably the finest recorded image of the perfect uppercut. I was so overwhelmed when I first saw it long ago that I vividly remember thinking that had Michelangelo painted a man delivering an uppercut on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, it would have looked exactly like this classic photograph.

It doesn't really matter, but in case you're interested, Robinson's target is rugged Frenchman Robert Villemain. The picture was taken midway in the first round, when Ray, obviously intent on forcing his foe to have respect, delivered his masterpiece. But you have to respect brave Robert, too. He shook the cobwebs from his brain and kept bulling forward. The only knockdown came in round 12, when a pair of jolting rights to the head dropped Villemain for a two-count and caused the crowd of about 20,000 at Philadelphia's Municipal Stadium to rise. The unanimous 15-round decision went to Robinson, and with it Pennsylvania's version of the world middleweight championship. Robinson was also the reigning world welterweight king at the time.



Sugar Ray Robinson's perfect right uppercut slams against Robert Villemain's mouth, freezing the Frenchman in his tracks.

TOMMY THE LION-HEARTED

(January 1935)

No matter how hard he tried or how much blood he spilled, Britain's tough-as-nails heavyweight Tommy Farr could not win a single fight in America. And, yet, despite his perfect record (five defeats, zero wins), it was this rock of a man from Wales who drew all the cheers, and his American foes all the boos, at the end of every battle. But it wasn't Farr's incredible courage alone that inspired all those cheers. The majority of people watching four of those five fights believed Tommy deserved to win them.

A cartoon published on January 13, 1939, the day after Tommy Farr lost his fifth consecutive fight in America, was both a tribute and an apology to the courageous Welshman.

Farr's frustrating series of American invasions began in August 1937, when he was served up as sacrificial lamb to newly crowned heavyweight champion Joe Louis. The lamb, however, turned out to be a fearless lion as he miraculously absorbed Louis' most explosive bombs for 15 rounds without once touching the floor. The champion got the decision, and rightfully so. But Farr got all the cheers—and rightfully so.

From January 1938 to January '39, Farr had four more fights in New York City. His opponents were two former heavyweight champions, Jimmy Braddock and Max Baer. Then came Lou Nova and Red Burman. All four decisions went against Tommy—officially, that is. The American press sympathized with the granite-chinned Briton and stormed to his defense. The most poignant tribute—and subtle apology—to Tommy for all his suffering in America was this masterpiece by the great cartoonist Burris Jenkins Jr. It appeared across the entire sports page of the *New York Journal*, as well as in other Hearst newspapers throughout the country. Jenkins used only a few words to set the scene. But even they were unnecessary. The picture told the whole sad story. And everybody understood.

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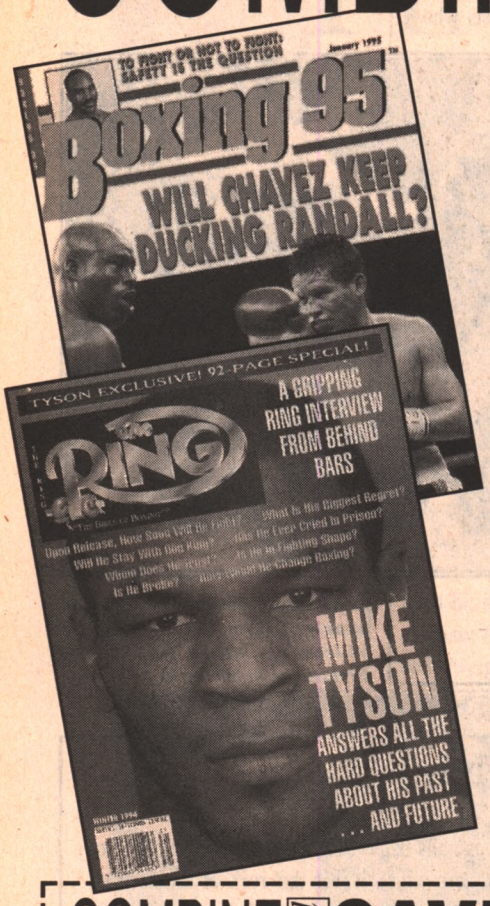

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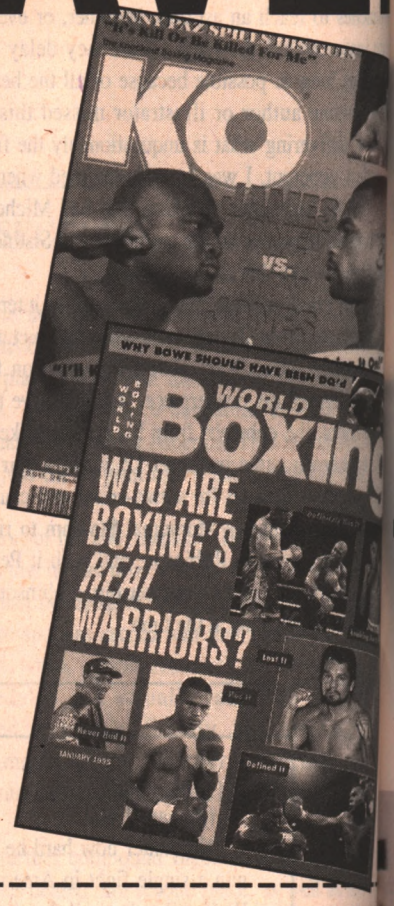

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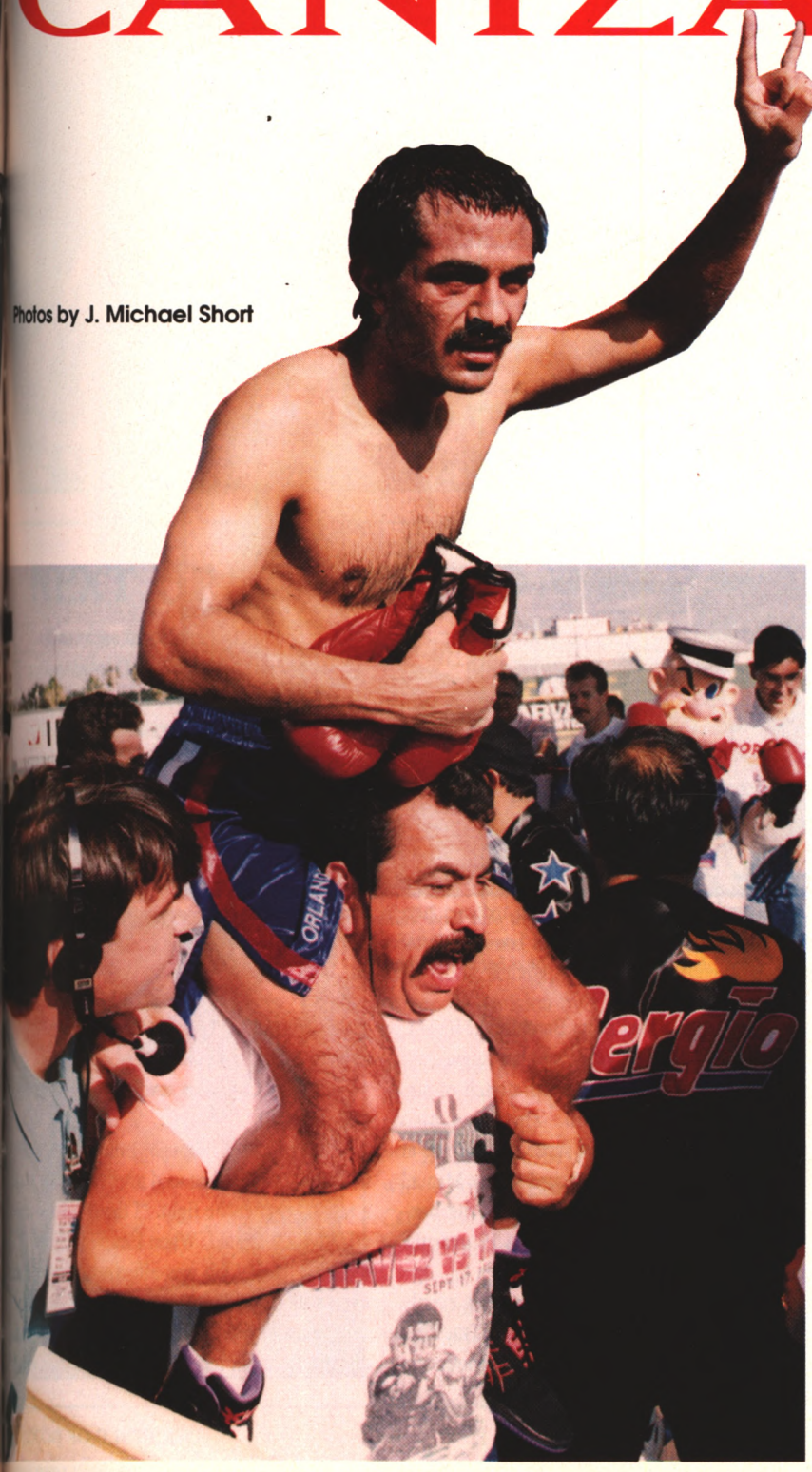
In The Most Controversial Decision Of The Year ...

FOR THE RECORD, CANIZALES IS THE WINNER

Photos by J. Michael Short



By Bruce Williams

No one can deny IBF bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales has been an extraordinary champion. Exceptional. Exemplary.

And now that he's broken the division record for consecutive successful title defenses, the word "great" can—and will—be applied. Canizales would like to have secured that status in a certain manner. Instead, some observers are suggesting he has passed his peak, and, like Ali, Leonard, Chavez, and countless champions before him, profit from his reputation after giving a less-than-golden performance. Sometimes it doesn't take more than a nudge to move a borderline decision into the win column.

Ali emerged victorious in his defenses against Jimmy Young and Ken Norton; Leonard seemed fortunate in his rematch with Thomas Hearns; Chavez benefited from the judges' generosity in his showdown against Pernell Whitaker and his return vs. Frankie Randall. On October 15, before a crowd of 5,000 at West Martin Field in Laredo, Texas, Canizales survived the surprising challenge of 1992 U.S. Olympian Sergio Reyes, though many people,

Canizales exhibited the hand speed and purposeful movement that have marked his reign, but Reyes walked through the champion's combinations (top). From rounds one through 12, the 24-year-old challenger stayed in Canizales' face (above), and rarely took a backward step.

Canizales' hometown fans and the judges aside, were far from convinced.

"I thought that was a very close fight," said Texas-based trainer Richard Lord. "I figured Orlando would win because it was in his hometown, and all the prestige behind him. I thought Sergio won the latter part of the fight. He came back like a champion from the sixth-round knockdown, and I think showed a lot more than they expected of him."

Let the record show Texas' Ruben Garcia scored 114-113, Iliinois' Pete Podgorski 115-112, and Rhode Island's Jim Burchfield 116-111, all in favor of the IBF king, who has reigned for more than six years, the longest stretch of any current world champion. This was also Canizales' 16th consecutive successful defense at 118 pounds, breaking the record set by Manuel Ortiz in the '40s. (Ortiz still holds the bantamweight mark for total defenses, 19 over the course of two reigns.)

The writers at ringside were almost evenly split as to who deserved the decision. THE RING gave Reyes a 114-113 edge. CBS announcers Tim Ryan and Gil Clancy thought Reyes wo an even bigger margin.

The way Canizales saw it, there was no troversy at all.

"It was close; I thought I did enough to no doubt about it," he said after reviewing a a few days after the fight. "I thought I was effective all-around. When I moved, he miss lot of shots. My jab was effective; that had to do with him missing."

Canizales didn't believe the close call w distract from his record-setting accomplish

After the disputed decision was announced, Reyes sought support from Canizales' hometown fans. "The majority of Laredo, the real people, know I won," he said.

"It's a great feeling, knowing I'm the only one at the top. That was my goal, to make history. And I accomplished that. Nobody'd ever done that before."

Bob Spagnola, Canizales' manager, added, "It was brutal conditions out there, with the heat and everything. [The fight was held at a minor league baseball stadium, and it was more than 90 degrees at ringside.] Considering the pressure of Orlando having to fight at home, he performed very impressively. This record means a lot, it's special. Otherwise, we would have moved up long ago. Now it's on to bigger and better things." (See sidebar.)

The 24-year-old challenger, who'd had only 10 pro fights, nearly spoiled those plans. On paper, Reyes, 117¾, Fort Worth, Texas, was sadly overmatched. Canizales, 118, Laredo, Texas, was 37-1-1 (29) with 1 no-contest and considered among the five best fighters in the world. The gap between the fighters seemed wider than the Rio Grande. As soon as the fight began, however, that gap was reduced until it was no greater than the distance between the fighters' noses.

Canizales started strongly, using his movement and experience, and the support of the crowd. But Reyes rarely took a backward step, and by the third round was forcing the champion to the ropes. Canizales measured Reyes with jabs and scored with big sweeping rights. Yet he failed to land as many combinations as the challenger.

By the end of the third round, Canizales sported a tiny nick over his left eye; his corner controlled the cut for the remainder of the fight. Reyes, 10-1 (3), gained confidence, and as more and more of his hooks and crosses connected, he showed the champion less and less respect. The challenger was warned numerous times by referee Barry Yeats (USA) for holding and hitting, stiff-arming, and pushing down Canizales' head. But he refused to be deterred and kept applying the pressure.

That reckless abandon nearly proved Reyes' undoing. In the sixth, he landed a left and followed up with a looping right. But Canizales beat him to the punch with a perfect short right to the chin. Stunned, Reyes lunged at the champion and crashed face-first to the canvas. He rose by the count of eight, then faced the longest minute of his professional career. Trying for the finish, Canizales responded with a left uppercut and a series of blows capped by a right cross. Then he hesitated, as if waiting to see if Yeats was going to stop the fight, and Reyes lunged for

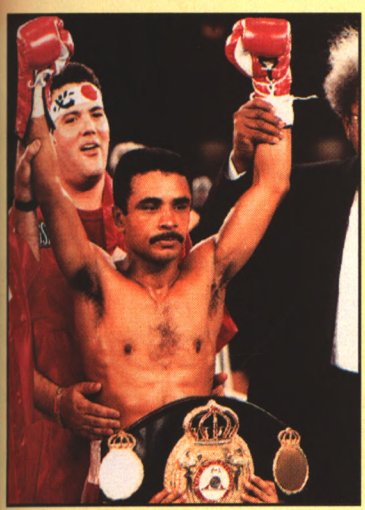
(Continued on page 52)

NEXT UP: WILFREDO VASQUEZ

One of the best fighters in the world? A record-setting champion at bantamweight? His reputation aside, Orlando Canizales continues to win in relative anonymity. That could begin to change on January 7, when the Texan makes his debut on HBO, rising in weight to challenge WBA junior featherweight champion Wilfredo Vasquez. The card will also feature WBC featherweight champion Kevin Kelley's mandatory defense against Mexico's Alejandro Gonzalez.

"Orlando is taking a chance moving up and taking on a champion who's made eight successful defenses," said Lou DiBella, vice president of HBO Sports. HBO is taking a chance, too: "It's the first time two little guys are headlining a show [on HBO]," added DiBella.

Puerto Rican veteran Vasquez, 33, held the WBA bantamweight title in the mid-'80s. A dangerous puncher with both hands, he's reigned as WBA 122-pound king since March 1992. In his most recent defense, however, he scored a controversial decision over Juan Polo-Perez. If Canizales has been criticized for facing weak opposition as a bantie champ, he should be credited for challenging the toughest of the three junior feather titlists.



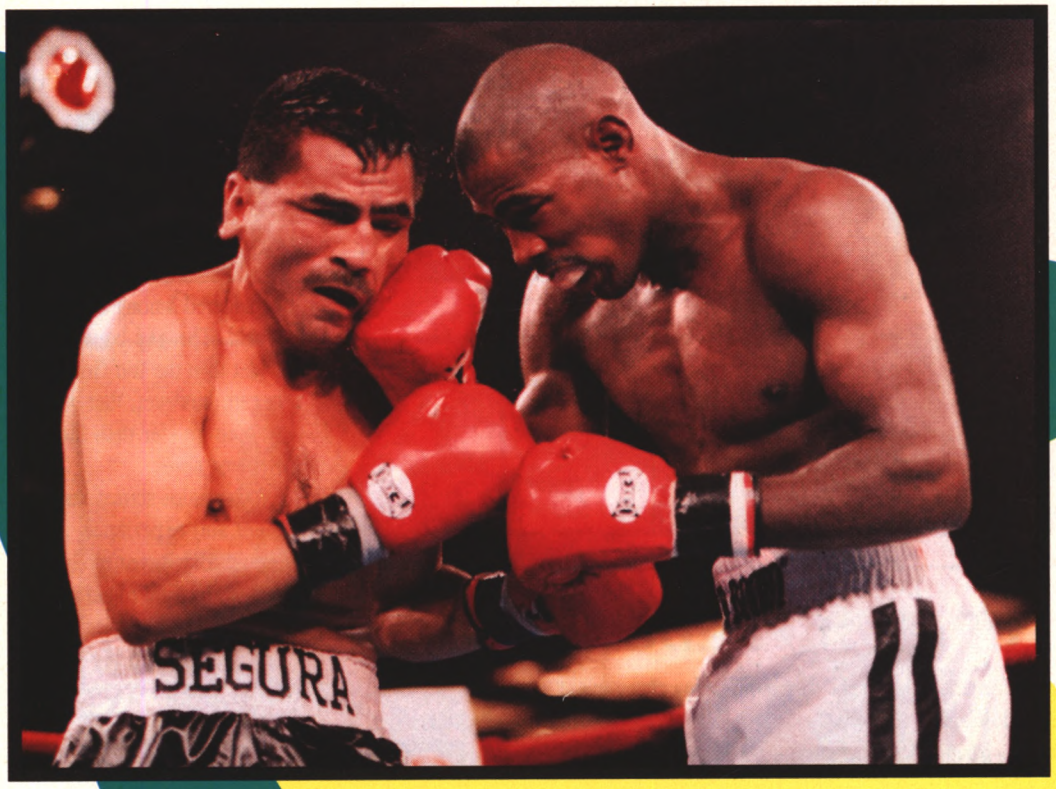
"If you want to be on HBO, they want you in with a higher grade of opposition," said Canizales' manager, Bob Spagnola. "Besides, he's the only [champion] we could get."

Should Canizales dethrone Vasquez, look for a return to HBO—in the form of a return with Sergio Reyes.

–Steve Farhood

IBF FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMP

TOM JOHNSON



In an October defense against California's Pancho Segura, Johnson needed a combination of his skills and toughness. The result was a corking 12-rounder.

"I'VE HAD ADVERSITIES ON TOP OF ADVERSITIES"

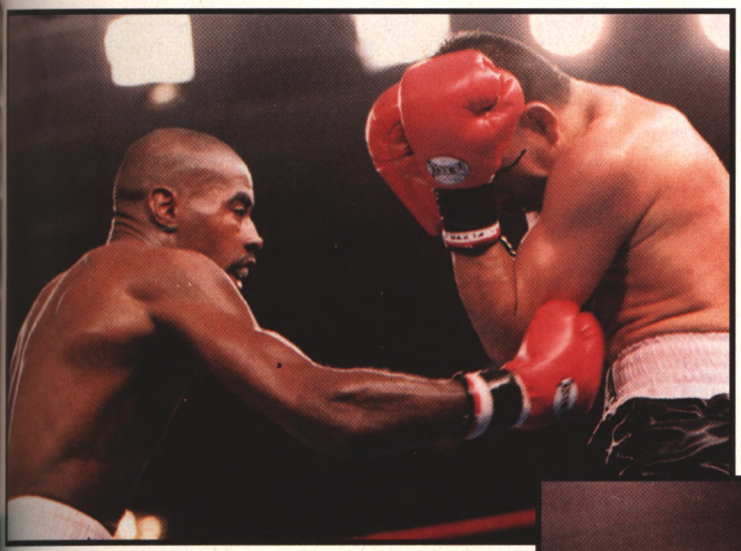
Photos by Jason Ross La

By Steve Farhood

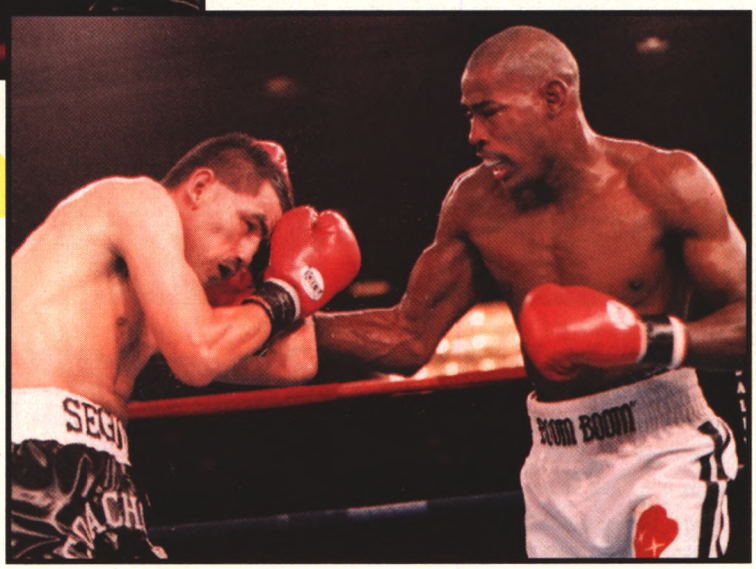
If Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson desired an entourage, he could complete the entire hiring process at a single family barbecue. The IBF featherweight champion is one of nine children, but his brothers and sisters don't come to see him fight. Nor does his mother. As for Johnson's father, he was murdered when the fighter was nine months old.

Johnson probably wouldn't know how to react if there was a crowd around him. In an eerie coincidence, his first two managers, Johnny Au Keith Grissom, were murdered. His new manager, Jackie Kallen, misse October 22 defense against Pancho Segura because of a prior commi with Lonny Beasley in Hong Kong. His longtime trainer, Robert Mo can no longer travel because of health problems. And Johnson abrupt misses the absence of his female companion, saying, "My lady do intervene with my boxing."

When Johnson describes himself as "pretty much a loner," he's not speaking for effect. Two hours before the weigh-in for his fifth defense, a CBS-televised bout against in-your-face mandatory contender Segura at



Johnson wisely mixed his attack, punching to the body (above) as well as Segura's well-protected head (right). Segura kept attacking, however, and the champion was extended until the final bell.



Bally's Park Place in Atlantic City, the fighter was strolling through the hotel lobby—alone. Spotted by a boxing writer who was checking in, he instantly agreed to an interview.

For 90 minutes, Johnson spoke of what it's like to be by yourself, not so much inside the ring as out. Though an effective mix of talent and guts, he isn't one of the better-known champions in boxing. If WBC featherweight titlist and promotional stablemate Kevin Kelley is a hurricane, Johnson is a gentle breeze. "You have to be true to your character," he says. "I have a low-key demeanor. Some people say that hurts me."

That Johnson has been virtually ignored is ironic; he's always in punch-outs, and his story has been the stuff of tabloid headlines. "I've had adversities on top of adversities," he says, referring to much more than the murders of his father and managers. "I've always had to be self-motivated. I never had anyone. It's been a very lonely road."

Johnson, who was born and raised in Evansville, Indiana, described himself as "a s____y amateur." In 1985, he was still punching for trophies when he was seriously injured in a car accident. He was blind in his right eye for two months, and he still occasionally limps because of damage to his left leg.

"The paramedic, who I used to box with, and the doctor told me I'd never fight again," he recalls. "I just looked at 'em and said, 'If there's a God above, I'll fight again. I'll prove all my doubters wrong and my supporters right—of which there weren't many."

Johnson began supplying proof upon turning pro in October 1986. He lost only one of his first 28 bouts (to Harold Warren), and overcame the death of Ace, with whom he was living at the time, as well as a heart murmur, which was detected in 1990.

In November '91, Johnson challenged Mexico's Manuel Medina for the IBF title at the Great Western Forum. Behind on points, he was beginning to rally when the fight was stopped after an unintentional butt opened a cut over the champion's eye. Medina was declared the winner by technical decision.

"It hit me when I got home," Johnson recalls. "I realized everything I had planned for for 12 years was down the drain. But not everyone knows

(Continued on page 52)

Having retained the belt for the fifth time, Johnson is flanked by trainer Joey Fariello (left) and promoter Bobby Goodman. Team Johnson is hoping the exposure provided by CBS will result in added recognition—and more big fights.

Photo by Al Bello/Al

PERNELL WHITAKER

SIMPLY THE BES

By John Scheinman

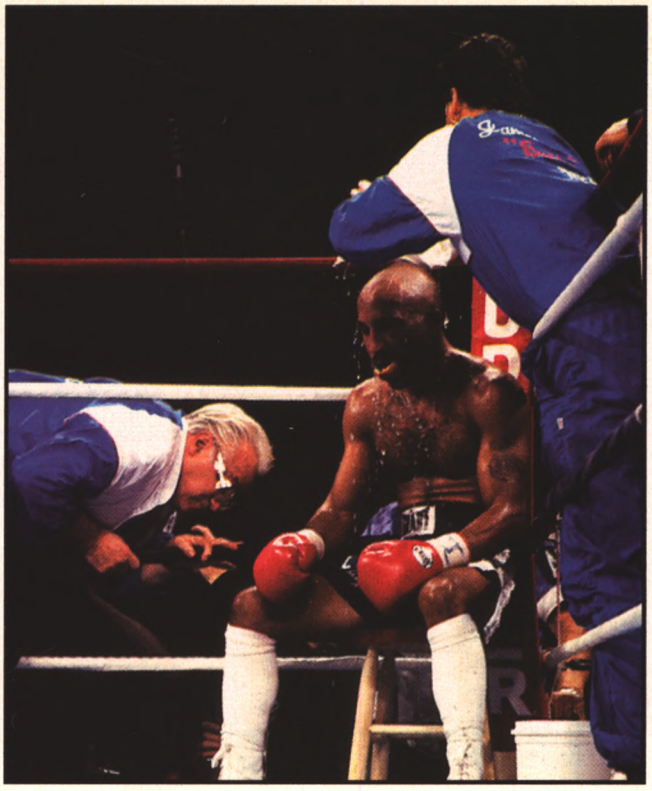
In a scene in the film *The Year Of Living Dangerously*, Billy Kwan, the character played by actress Linda Hunt, increasingly distraught over events beyond her control, mutters over and over, "What then shall we do? What then shall we do?" The question perfectly fits WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker.

Whitaker is almost universally recognized as the best fighter in the world. He sits atop the boxing pantheon. At age 30, he has a sparkling record, with his one loss (to Jose Luis Ramirez) and his sole draw (vs. Julio Cesar Chavez) both widely considered caused by undivine intervention.

Whitaker is not only considered a ring virtuoso, but also a clean-cut good guy and a
supporter of his hometown of Norfolk, V
The only fans who don't love him are thos
prefer their masterpieces painted with dol
blood and guts.

Still the question remains: What then
we do?

One thing is clear: At this stage of his



Photos by Tom Casino

Against the world's best defensive fighter, former junior welterweight and welterweight champion Buddy McGirt couldn't land his right, his left, or anything else (left). By the late rounds, McGirt had been blinded by Whitaker's talent, and his corner couldn't save him (right).

Whitaker wants nothing but big fights. The Jerry Lee Smiths (KO 1, Mexico City, May 1992) and Benny Baezes (KO 1, Virginia Beach, Virginia, December '92) are out. Maybe, too, are potentially uninspiring defenses against the Larry Barneses of the world.

"I'm the best, pound-for-pound," Whitaker said after decisioning old nemesis Buddy McGirt on October 1 at the Scope in Norfolk. "As your career closes out, you want challenges."

But power politics have come to dominate the deployment of the few fighters in the 147-pound vicinity worthy of challenging Whitaker, fighters who might help re-ignite Whitaker and re-introduce the cobwebbed term "superfight."

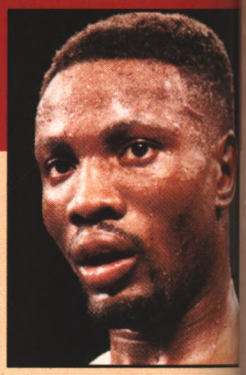
"He's in an awkward position," Whitaker's co-manager, Lou Duva, said of his fighter. "Take Sugar Ray Leonard. He had Hagler, Duran, Hearns, Benitez—he had those guys out there. Pernell doesn't have that luxury."

Even with his son, Dan Duva, ranking as one of the big three promoters in the sport, Lou laments the increasingly bitter battle for control of boxing, where champions are annexed by promoters and rarely matched against other titleholders. And the most logical opponents for Whitaker—WBC super lightweight champion Chavez, rising star and IBF welterweight titlist Felix Trinidad, WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris, and WBA junior welterweight king Frankie Randall—are all tied up in promotional deals with Don King.

To make matters worse, the inconsistent network coverage of boxing means the Sweet Science now cultivates few stars able to break into the public consciousness. When Lou Duva

And Simply **No Way** To Keep Proving It

THE WHITAKER SWEEPSTAKES



Every world-class fighter wants a shot at Pernell Whitaker. A victory means instant respect and recognition. And you can't beat the pay. But who does *Whitaker* want to fight? Here's the unofficial line, with the odds indicating the chances of the bout materializing.

OPPONENT	DIVISION	ODDS	THE SKINNY
Ike Quartey	Welter	1-1	WBA champ doesn't fight for Don King; that could be enough for HBO
Kostya Tszyu	Jr. Welter	5-1	Could move up; has to first beat Jake Rodriguez for IBF 140-pound title
Felix Trinidad	Welter	8-1	Puerto Rican's red-hot; unification late in '95 would be gigantic
Terry Norris	Jr. Middle	10-1	Showdown at 149 pounds seems logical, but Lou Duva doesn't like matchup
Simon Brown	Jr. Middle	10-1	More likely to secure title shot vs. Vincent Pettway
Frankie Randall	Jr. Welter	10-1	Makes sense if Chavez won't fight "The Surgeon," so probably won't happen
Julio Cesar Chavez	Jr. Welter	15-1	King won't allow it, at least until Tyson's return; at this point, Chavez too vulnerable
Larry Barnes	Welter	20-1	Makes list only because he's top-rated WBC contender

says exploratory negotiations have begun for a title unification between Whitaker and WBA champion Ike Quartey, most fans will either yawn or say, "Ike *who*?"

There were no problems getting McGirt back in the ring. (The two-division former titlist is promoted by Garden State Boxing.) Ever since he lost the WBC 147-pound crown to Whitaker by 12-round decision at Madison Square Garden in March 1993, the hard-hat veteran from Long Island had been pining for a rematch. And after five tough decision wins, McGirt secured the position of mandatory challenger.

Virtually a one-armed fighter in the first meeting with Whitaker because of damage to tendons in his left shoulder, the challenger knew this was a no-excuses rematch. McGirt, 146, Brentwood, New York, opened crisply, even dumping Whitaker, 147, Norfolk, Virginia, with a right hand in the second round. But by the fifth, McGirt, a red lump forming under his left eye, had begun to lunge, a fatal mistake against a master boxer.

Whatever adjustments Whitaker, 34-1-1 (15), made had worked beautifully; his jab was e where and his movement left McGirt, 64-1 with little to do but watch his hopes unravel.

By the 11th, McGirt was having his legs saged in his corner and his ego deflated by ager-trainer Al Certo. ("You're doin' You're fighting a defensive fight.") In se rounds, particularly the 10th, Whitaker punched the heck out of him. McGirt bra came out looking to trade in the 12th. Whitaker met the challenge and, over the minute, posed playfully for the ecstatic crowd.

Rudy Ortega (118-112), Chuck Giampa 113), and Steve Weisfeld (117-110) all score Whitaker. The referee was Bill Connors. A officials are from the USA. It was Whita third defense.

Asked afterward if he could possibly be better, Whitaker said, "Yeah, as soon as you out my Fighter of the Year award." And that, Sweet Pea turned his attention to the fight he craves, a rematch with Chavez biggest draw and moneymaker in the bo world.

But both Chavez and King are in no hur grant Whitaker another chance to box r around the Mexican legend. As King publ Mike Marley said, "Chavez doesn't n Whitaker. Whitaker needs him."

Here's how it works: Think of a junior terweight-to-junior middleweight pecking

(Continued on pag

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

When Whitaker boxes, people watch his every move. The WBC welterweight champion, considered by most observers to be the world's best fighter, wants only big fights, but can't seem to find them.

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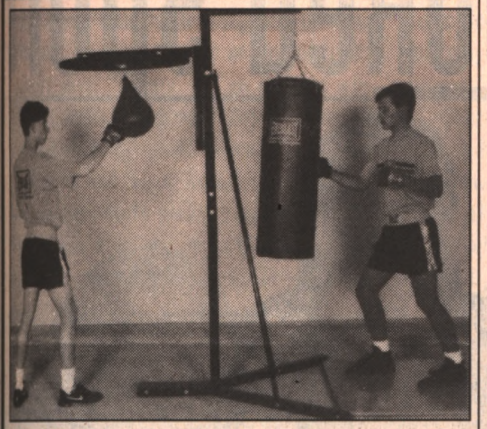

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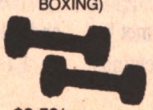

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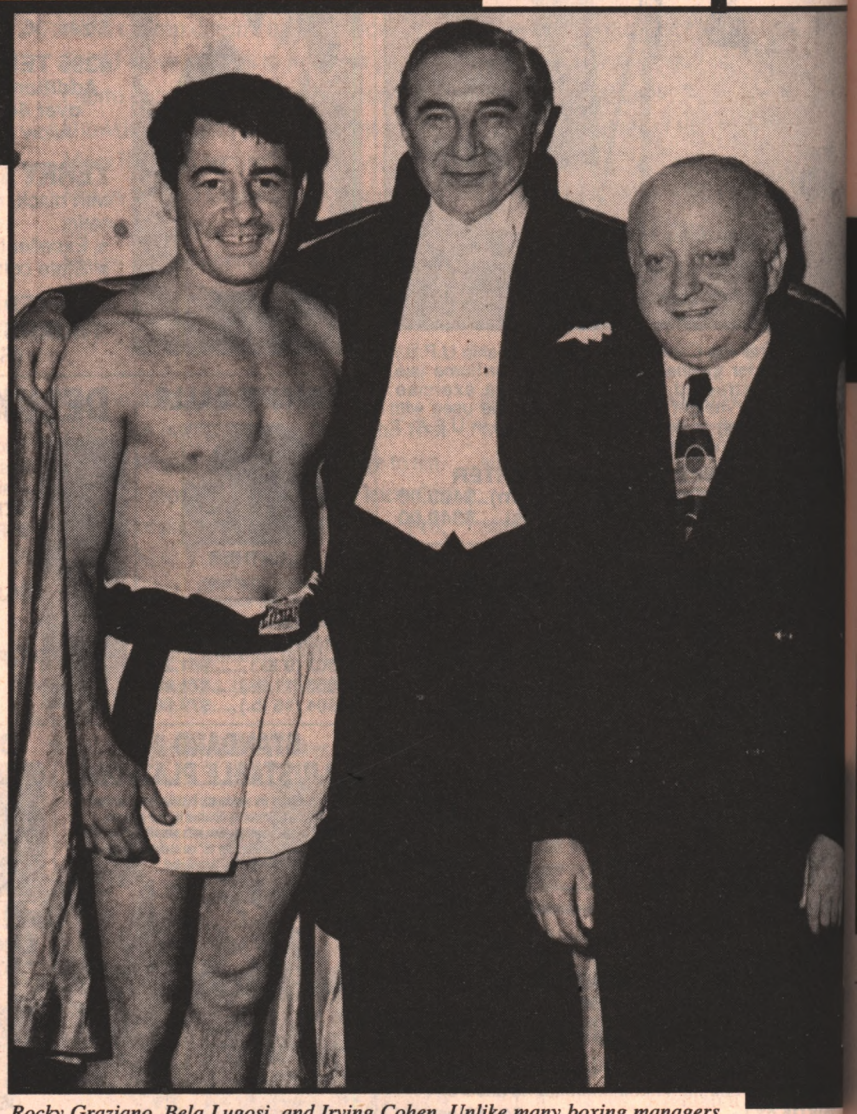

Rocky Graziano, Bela Lugosi, and Irving Cohen. Unlike many boxing managers, Cohen was content to guide his fighters—and not use them as meal tickets.

By Mike Silver

The year is 1935. In New York City, Irving Cohen, a mild-mannered ex-amateur boxer and former lingerie salesman, is, not unlike millions of other people, struggling to support his family during the Great Depression. His passion for the sport of boxing and his head for business have led him into a dubious career choice—the management of professional prize fighters.

One of the first boxers he has taken under his wing, a lightweight named Sammy Garcia, is beginning to show some real promise. Cohen, who dreams of someday managing a world champion, is very pleased with his fighter's progress. So, too, is a local hoodlum known as Jimmy Doyle.

Doyle, whose real name is Jimmy Plumeri, is a garment district racketeer who as of late has been muscling his way into the boxing business. He is, in the parlance of the trade, "well-connected."

One afternoon Cohen receives a call asking him to meet with Doyle in promoter Jimmy Johnston's office, which happens to be located on the eighth floor of the Longacre building. The messenger tells Cohen that Doyle has some important business to discuss with him.

When Cohen arrives at the office he is met by Doyle and several of his compatriots. Greetings are exchanged. With the amenities over, D gets right to the point. "Irving," he says, "Sa Garcia is my fighter."

"*Your* fighter?" responds Cohen. "I d understand. Have you got a signed contract?"

"No," replies Doyle, "but he's my fig and I don't need a signed contract."

Cohen, appearing unperturbed but f

ure of what is going on, says, "I'm sorry, he's
r fighter."

Doyle then puts his arm around Cohen's
houlders and says, "C'mon Irving, let's you and
e take a walk." He proceeds to walk Cohen to
e window.

"We're on the eighth floor, Irving," says
Doyle. "It's a long way down. Do you get the
icture? I want the fighter."

Cohen doesn't flinch. He straightens up to his
ull 5'6" and, looking directly at Doyle, coolly
nd calmly says, "Jimmy, if I go out that win-
ow, you're coming with me." For a heart-stop-
ing moment nobody speaks. Then, all of a sud-
en, Doyle starts to laugh. In fact, he is laughing
o hard, he can hardly speak. The irony of this
assy little guy standing up to him must have
truck him as very funny, if not downright ridicu-

er losing a disputed title fight decision to Kid Gavilan in 1951, Graham, ked by trainer Whitey Bimstein (left) and Cohen, sat frozen in disbelief.

. When Doyle finally catches his breath, he
Cohen, "Irving, don't worry about a thing."
There were no more difficulties with Jimmy
oyle.

***

It was an auspicious beginning to a career
was to eventually span 35 years and involve
management of close to 500 professional
ters.

It was hard not to like Irving Cohen. He was
antithesis of the cigar-chomping, abrasive,
ulmouthed fight manager. With his calm
eanor and quiet, almost soothing tone of
voice, he had the innate ability to immediately put you at ease.

"My father was slow to anger and never lost his temper," recalls his son, Herb Cohen. "He always seemed to be in complete control. When I went into business, he told me, 'Herb, people are going to hurt you along the way. The one thing you don't want to do is to show that they're hurting you. And you don't look to fight back. At some point in time everything evens out. You don't fight back in temper.' And that's the way he was."

Cohen, who passed away in 1991 in his 87th year, is best known to the boxing community at large as the manager of Rocky Graziano. In the 1956 film biography of Graziano's life, *Somebody Up There Likes Me*, Cohen was portrayed by the great actor Everett Sloane, whose performance accurately captured the manager's gentle personality.

Although Cohen was involved in the management of a slew of quality fighters, including Billy Graham, Walter Cartier, Irish Bob Murphy, Terry Young, Freddie Russo, Joey Fontana, and many other top-notch contenders, Graziano was his first and only world champion.

In the early days of his career, Graziano would have tried the patience of a saint. He could disappear for days at a time. He never took training seriously, relying instead on his wrecking ball of a right hand to end fights quickly. All too often Cohen would sign him for a match and then not see him again until the weigh-in on the morning of the fight. A less patient manager would have had every right to dismiss this wild and undisciplined dead-end tough guy. Not Cohen. He was certain Graziano's ring career would take off when, and if, he matured as a person.

Long before Graziano won the middleweight title from Tony Zale, he moved into the Cohen household and lived there for the better part of a year. Herb Cohen was a teenager at the time and idolized Rocky. The future champ became a surrogate big brother to Herb, much to the young man's delight.

Herb Cohen was a witness to the conversation that took place between Rocky and his father that changed the course of Graziano's career and put him on the road to the championship. "It was toward the end of 1944," he recalls. "Rocky had lost two straight 10-round decisions to Harold Green at Madison Square Garden. The defeats put Rocky in a funny position: Where does he go from here?

"Madison Square Garden wanted to match Rocky with a hot young fighter out of Philadelphia named Billy Arnold, who was being hailed as another Joe Louis. He had scored 28 knockouts in 32 fights. The people behind Arnold wanted what they thought would be an easy win for him. They asked for Graziano because they believed, correctly, that he was wide-open, easy to hit, and had just lost two fights to Harold Green.

"Dad was very reticent about making the fight. He felt that if Rocky lost to Arnold, it would have been three consecutive losses in the Garden. And if he lost badly, it could have ended Rocky's career. Stylewise and strategically, it was a dangerous fight to take at that stage of his career. Dad wanted to go back to a small club like the St. Nick's, or out of town, where Rocky could do his homework and improve. In other words, take a few steps back and then move ahead."

"Although my father did not want to make the match, he felt obligated to discuss it with Rocky. The three of us were sitting in the living room when Dad told Rocky about the proposed match. Rocky, without hesitating, said, 'Make the fight, I know I can beat this guy.' Dad explained to Rocky that he could go back to the clubs, get a few wins, and then maybe pick an opponent instead of having one picked for them. But Rocky was adamant. 'Get this fight,' he said. 'I'll moider the bum. I'll knock him dead!' I remember that expression, 'I'll knock him dead,'

(Continued on page 63)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
George Foreman KO 10 Michael Moorer
(Regains WBA Title; Wins IBF Title)
Corrie Sanders W 8 Garing Lane
Joe Hipp W 10 Rodolfo Marin
Alexandre Zolkin KO 3 John McClain
Peter McNeeley KO 1 J.B. Williamson
James Thunder W 12 Richard Mason
Brian Nielsen KO 5 Bonecrusher Smith
Andrew Golota KO 7 Daren Hayden
Melvin Foster KO 6 Jimmy Harrison
Shannon Briggs KO 2 Mike Faulkner
John Ruiz KO 4 Ricky Sullivan
Jesse Shelby KO 9 Tyrone Campbell
John Carlo KO 1 Leon Spinks
Shane Sutcliffe W 8 Leon Spinks

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Norbert Ekassi KO 7 Marcelo Figueroa
Carl Thompson KO 5 Tim Knight
Kenny Keene W 12 Terry Ray
Arthur Williams W 8 Mike Green
Robert Daniels KO 2 Eddie Curry
Dennis Andries KO 5 Sylvester White
Nestor Giovannini KO 6 Larry Carlisle

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Henry Maske KO 9 Iran Barkley
(Retains IBF Title)
Ole Klemetsen KO 3 Erik Brown
Louis Del Valle KO 1 John Brown
Louis Del Valle KO 2 Earl Talley
Eddy Smulders KO 2 Eduard Drecvianikov
Garry Delaney KO 2 Arigoma Chiponda
John Scully W 10 Art Baylis

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Chris Eubank W 12 Dan Schommer
Frederic Seillier KO 9 Bernard Bonzon
Graciano Rocchigiani KO 2 Willie Kemp
Henry Wharton KO 1 Sipho Moyo
Roberto Duran KO 6 Heath Todd
Charles Brewer KO 2 Terry Seay
Darren Zenner KO 12 Adam Garland
Ron Collins W 8 Tyrone Jackson

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Rodney Toney KO 1 Jaime Montano
Richie Woodhall W 12 Jacques LeBlanc
Ernie Artango D 12 Craig Trotter
Joe Gatti KO 1 James Stokes

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bronco McKart KO 7 Engels Pedroza
Tony Marshall Tech. Win 8 Ron Morgan
Kevin Pompey W 10 Richard Evans
Young Dick Tiger W 10 Lupe Aquino
Curtis Summit W 10 Eric Holland
Robert McCracken KO 4 Dean Cooper
Emmett Linton W 12 Augustin Renteria
Leo Young W 12 Fitzgerald Bruney

WELTERWEIGHTS
Larry Barnes W 10 Henry Matos
Gary Murray KO 4 Darren Dyer
Gary Jacobs KO 6 Rusty DeRouen
James Hughes KO 12 Anthony Stephens
Kirkland Laing KO 7 Chris Peters
Louis Vedder W 10 Livingstone Bramble
Lonnie Smith KO 2 Marvin Ladson
Kip Diggs KO 5 Tony Rodriguez

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Ray Oliveira W 10 Charles Murray
Darryll Tyson KO 1 Fernando Ramos
Sharmba Mitchell KO 2 Paul Walker
Khalid Rahilou W 8 Mario Morales

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Ivan Robinson KO 5 Isander Lacen

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Harold Warren KO 6 Fernando Rodriguez
Jacobin Yoma W 12 Jimmi Bredahl
Roberto Garcia KO 3 Bobby Brewer
Eddie Cook W 10 Juan Mendoza
Jeff Mayweather KO 11 Mark Smith
Greg Torres W 10 Derrick Gainer
Floyd Havard KO 4 Eddie Lloyd
Julian Wheeler W 4 Fernando Sanchez

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Tom Johnson W 12 Pancho Segura
(Retains IBF Title)
Daryl Pinckney KO 3 Junior Jones
Manuel Medina W 12 Jose Martinez

Rudy Zavala KO 4 John Roby
Daniel Zaragoza KO 7 Wilfredo Vargas
Dis Saguid W 12 Singhnum Chuwatana
Billy Hardy W 12 Stanford Ngcebeshe

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Vasquez W 12 Juan Polo-Perez
(Retains WBA Title)
Hector Acero-Sanchez W 10 Barrington Francis
(Non-Title Bout)
Naseem Hamed KO 6 Freddy Cruz
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 3 Jesus Sarabia
Johnny Bredahl W 8 Conn McMullan
Mbuelelo Botile W 10 Javier Diaz

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Orlando Canizales W 12 Sergio Reyes
(Retains IBF Title)
Nana Konadu W 10 Victor Rabanales
Alfred Kotey W 12 Armando Castro
Johnny Armour KO 11 Shawn Anderson
Alejandro Landeros KO 5 Armando Salazar

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Johnny Tapia KO 11 Henry Martinez
Danny Romero KO 6 Marcos Pacheco
Cecilio Espino KO 5 Eduardo Ramirez
Samson Elite-Gym KO 3 Colin Nelson
Rolando Pascua KO 6 Kid Refamonte

FLYWEIGHTS
San Sor Ploenchit W 12 Yong Kang Kim
(Retains WBA Title)
Mark Johnson KO 12 Enrique Orozco
Isaias Zamudio KO 4 Oscar Aguilar
Robbie Regan KO 2 Shaun Norman
Alberto Jimenez Tech. Draw 3 Mauro Diaz
Jake Matlala W 12 Pretty Boy Lucas
Jose Lopez KO 8 Julio Cesar Acevedo

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Leo Gamez KO 6 Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan
(Retains WBA Title)

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ala Villamor KO 3 Neri Saz

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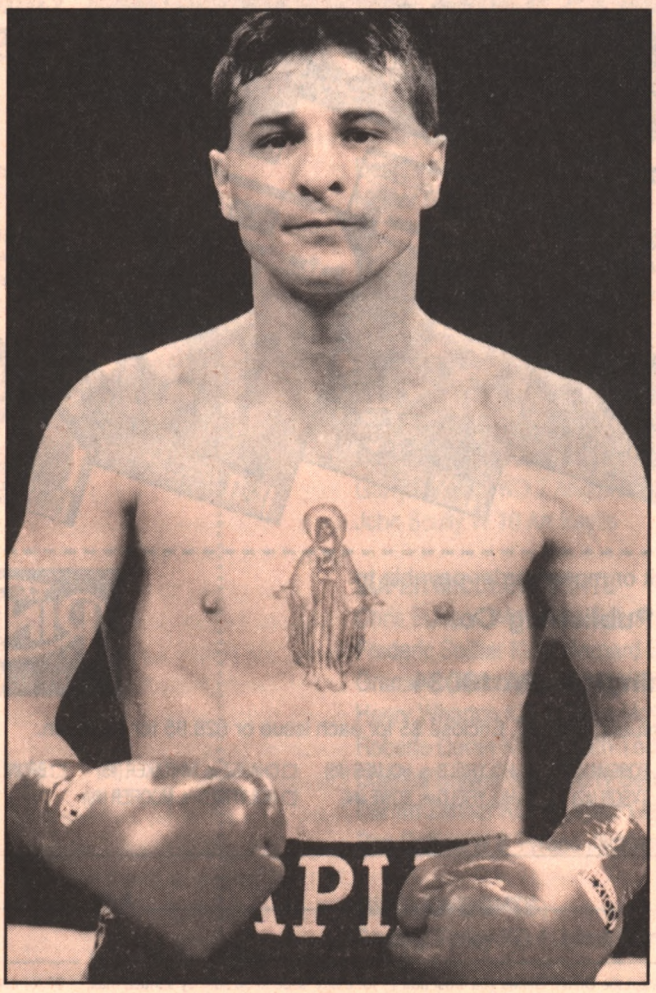
RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

It was hard to tell whether junior bantamweight Johnny Tapia was pumping up his hometown crowd at The Pit on the campus of the University of New Mexico, or whether it was the other way around. Regardless, his thrilling 11th-round stoppage of San Francisco's Henry Martinez was evidence of how far emotion and adrenaline can carry a fighter.

If Tapia, 27-0 (17), isn't the hottest 115-pounder in the world, his crosstown rival, Danny Romero, 20-0 (18), is. But even if both Tapia and Romero both win world titles, don't look for a showdown. Their recent ESPN-televised doubleheader, featuring Tapia-Martinez and Romero-Marcos Pacheco, drew 10,000 fans, and for now, at least, promoter Bob Arum likes things just the way they are.

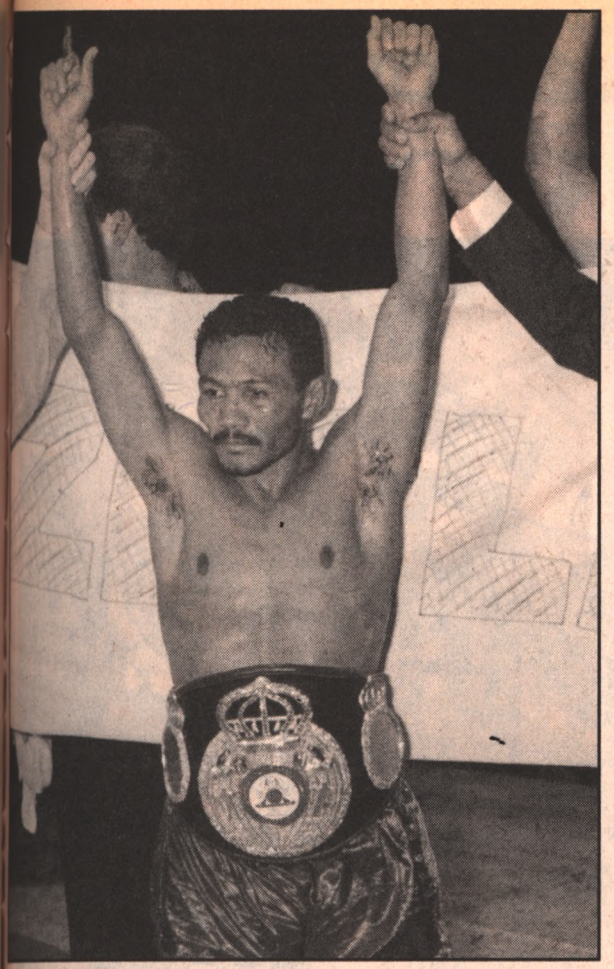


After stopping Martinez, Tapia, a recovering drug addict, said, "I'm very excited. We made it, baby. It's been a *loooong* road."

Here's to hoping he doesn't stop here.

• • • •

Johnny Tapia



Gamez came from behind to keep the belt

Leo Gamez KO 6 Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan

Bangkok, Thailand: WBA junior flyweight champion Gamez rose from an early knockdown and came from behind to retain the title by crushing Thai southpaw Sithbangprachan at the stadium at Ramkhamhaeng University. It was the Venezuelan's third defense.

The 18-year-old Sithbangprachan, 107½, is the younger brother of IBF flyweight champion Phichit Sithbangprachan. He proved faster and more aggressive from the start, and Gamez, 107½, absorbed considerable punishment. In the second, Gamez threw a hard right as the challenger delivered a sharp left. Sithbangprachan landed first and Gamez went sprawling to the deck.

Rounds three and four were dominated by the speedy Thai, who completely outpunched and outboxed the defensive-minded champion. In the fifth, Sithbangprachan, 7-1 (4), pinned Gamez, 28-3 (19), into a corner and struck with a barrage of punches.

The momentum suddenly shifted in the sixth, when the 5'1" Gamez switched his attack to the body. Sithbangprachan instantly seemed weakened, and his footwork was far less effective. Stalking his opponent, Gamez downed Sithbangprachan with a right-left-right combo to the face. The challenger was counted out at the 2:00 mark by referee Mitch Halpern (USA).

After five rounds, Sithbangprachan led by 50-44 on all three cards.

Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban

(10-9-94)

Joe Koizumi

Hyung Chul Lee KO 9 Katsuya Onizuka

Tokyo, Japan: Awkward Korean puncher Lee weathered several toe-to-toe exchanges and captured the WBA junior bantamweight title by shocking defending champion "Spanky" Onizuka before some 13,000 spectators at the Yoyogi First Gymnasium. It was the 24-year-old Onizuka's sixth defense, his first defeat, and perhaps his last fight.

Onizuka, 115, Japan, started strongly. The lanky, 5'8" champion opened by stinging the challenger with lefts. In the second, Lee, 115, pinned Onizuka to the ropes and landed in combination. The Korean was continuing his attack in the third when Onizuka exploded with some wicked right uppercuts that had Lee reeling along the ropes. Onizuka also captured the fourth.

Lee rocked Onizuka with a counter hook in the fifth, then added a followup flurry. Determined to survive, Onizuka, 24-1 (17), tried to circle the ring in the sixth. In the see-saw affair, the champion took the seventh by connecting with strong rights, and the 24-year-old Lee, 18-4 (14), captured the eighth by punching to both the head and body.

In the fateful ninth, Lee moved Onizuka to the ropes and unleashed a nonstop attack that lasted a full minute. Onizuka occasionally tried to answer, but so persistent was the challenger that referee John Coyle (England) intervened at the 2:55 mark. After eight rounds, Onizuka led on all three cards, with Al Siciliano (USA) scoring 77-75, Henk Majors (Netherlands) 77-74, and Gonzalo Riveras (Venezuela) 77-76.

Afterward, Onizuka made a shocking announcement: "I suffered a detached retina two years ago and couldn't see well with my right eye. I have hung up my gloves for good." He will immediately undergo surgery. It was not revealed how he concealed his injury from the doctors; boxers who have suffered detached retinas are not allowed to fight in Japan.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(9-18-94)

Joe Koizumi

Ike Quartey KO 5 Alberto Cortes

Carpentras, France: Dominant in every domain, WBA welterweight champion "Bazooka" Quartey retained the title for the first time, demolishing rugged and experienced southpaw Cortes before some 2,000 fans at Cosecs Stadium.

Quartey, 147, Accra, Ghana, displayed the same confidence as in his title-winning effort against Crisanto Espana in June. The powerpunching champion gave the impression he could dispose of Cortes, 147, Cordoba, Argentina, whenever it suited him. He jabbed effectively and pressured the challenger throughout. Cortes had few opportunities to offer anything more than dogged resistance and seemed demoralized at the finish.

Indeed, he seemed to have resigned himself to the inevitable in the opening round, when he backed off and grimaced after taking a solid combination. With no standing eight-count under WBA rules, Quartey pressed forward, and Cortes did well to survive until the bell.

Continuing his attack, Quartey, 27-0 (23), systematically softened Cortes, 62-4-1 (29), during rounds two, three, and four. Then, in the fifth, he put down the challenger with a flurry. Almost immediately, Cortes' corner submitted the towel of surrender, and referee Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) waved the bout over. The judges were Antonio Requena (Venezuela), Arturo Sanchez (Panama), and Tommy Thomas (Trinidad).

French promoter Michel Acaries said he envisions a unification bout between Quartey and WBC champion Pernell Whitaker some time next year.

Promoter: Michel Acaries

(10-1-94)

Brian Doogan

Henry Maske KO 9 Iran Barkley

Halle, Germany: In a completely lopsided encounter, Maske monopolized every round against a crude and desperately depleted Barkley and retained the IBF light heavyweight title when the challenger failed to answer the bell for round 10 before some 14,000 fans at Gary Weber Stadium. It was Maske's fifth defense.

Barkley, 171½, Bronx, New York, looked nothing like the fighter who twice defeated Thomas Hearns and seized world titles at middleweight, super middleweight, and light heavyweight. Slow, ponderous, and predictable, he hardly landed a noteworthy punch and suffered a variety of facial injuries. Maske, 174¼, Frankfurt, Germany, powerfully highlighted "The Blade's" deterioration, and the uneven bout became pitiful.

Firing penetrative jabs from his southpaw stance, Maske kept Barkley, 33-10 (20), off-balance from the start. Barkley struggled to find any sort of rhythm, and his crude swings invariably missed the target. Like a matador, Maske, 25-0 (12), continually enticed Barkley forward and picked him off with timely one-twos.

In the third, Barkley's lower lip was cut by a ripping left, and by round five the cumulative effect of Maske's punches resulted in pronounced swelling around the challenger's eyes. These bruises progressively worsened over the next four rounds, prompting an inspection by the ringside doctor at the end of the ninth. The doctor and Barkley's corner agreed the bout should be stopped, and Barkley remained seated when the bell rang for the 10th.

This was surely the end of Barkley's career in the top flight.

The referee was Bobby Ferrara (USA). The judges were Armand Krief (France), Frank Skilbred (USA), and Michael Fischer (Germany).

Promoter: Peter Koth

(10-8-94)

Brian Doogan

Wilfredo Vasquez W 12 Juan Polo-Perez

Levallois Perret, France: The rolled-up programs that blitzed the ring demonstrated the crowd's exasperation and the sheer ludicrousness of the unanimous decision given to WBA junior featherweight champion Vasquez over Polo-Perez at the Palais des Sports Marcel Cerdan.

Former IBF junior bantamweight champion Polo-Perez, 117½, Cacagema, Colombia, controlled proceedings, keeping Vasquez, 119, San Juan, Puerto Rico, on the end of a solid jab and acquitting himself distinguishably when they traded toe-to-toe. Vasquez, 41-6-3 (32), was largely impotent and could not take the initiative away from his opponent no matter what he tried. He won the final two rounds, but not many of the others, and the verdict was a gross injustice.

Following a circumspect opening round, Polo-Perez, 35-10-2 (20), initiated a fiery exchange at the start of the second, a strong right reddening the tissue around Vasquez' left eye. The challenger repeated a series of short, sharp bursts throughout the next few rounds and easily evaded the majority of blows headed his way.

A trickle of blood emanating from a cut above his left eye seemed to focus Vasquez' attention in rounds six and seven, but in the eighth he got nailed by a right and dropped to one knee. Referee Armand Krief (France) issued a mandatory count and Polo-Perez regained his grip on the fight.

Boxing coolly and effectively, the Colombian coasted over the last couple of rounds, convinced he had already done enough to win. The judges Venezuela's Osvaldo Sanchez (116-111), Italy's Pierro Sanelli (116-11 and France's Alfred Azzaro (115-113), inexplicably disagreed.

Promoter: Michel Acaries

(10-13-94)

Brian Doogan

Ploenchit (left) was too slick for Kim

San Sor Ploenchit W 12 Yong Kang Kim

Kanchanaburi, Thailand: Unbeaten Thai speedster Ploenchit survive flash knockdown in the opening round and went on to dominate two-t former flyweight champion Kim en route to scoring a one-sided unanim decision before some 50,000 fans at Kanchanaburi Municipal Stadium was Ploenchit's third defense.

The 22-year-old Ploenchit started strongly, landing fast jabs and o twos. But Kim, 29, caught him with a well-timed right, and the champ dropped to the canvas. The knockdown, however, did nothing to slow h down. Ploenchit controlled the next 11 rounds, proving much faster a more energetic than the South Korean. In the third, Ploenchit opened a over the challenger's right eyebrow, and from the fourth to the sixth dominated, seemingly en route to a stoppage win. But Kim, who had fought in two years, proved resilient, and Ploenchit decelerated in seventh and eighth.

Ploenchit, 20-0 (4), exploded in the ninth, during which he alm stopped Kim. The Thai also took the 10th, 11th, and 12th, though seemin resigned to the fact that the courageous Kim, 29-5 (13), was going to last distance.

Hiroyuki Tezaki (Japan) and Kazunobu Asao (Japan) both scored 1 109 and Armando Garcia (USA) 119-109. The referee was Silve Abainza (Philippines).

Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban

(9-25-94)

Joe Koizumi

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Canizales

(Continued from page 37)

a clinch. Just like that, the moment was gone. Reyes survived the rest of the round, and by the bell he was again trading punches.

If Canizales' supporters thought the fight was all but won, they were in for a shocking turn of events. Reyes bounced back in the seventh, and the momentum ebbed and flowed over the last six rounds, with neither fighter able to hurt the other or establish clear superiority. Predictably, Reyes showed signs of fatigue; by the late rounds he was boxing with his hands by his sides. But the challenger showed remarkable energy, forcing Canizales into phone booth warfare all the way.

The outcome was left to the judges. Canizales waited nervously for the scores, while Reyes raised his hands in expectation. As it turned out, history—and Canizales—were not to be denied, and a great cheer of joy and relief filled the park.

For Reyes and his handlers, however, there was only bitterness and frustration. "I know deep down in my heart I beat him," Reyes insisted. "The majority of Laredo, the real people, know I won. He hit me some good shots, but I knew he wasn't going to stand toe-to-toe with me. He's an old man, 28 years old. I said I was going to take it to him, and I believe I did. I felt I won all the rounds at the end. I showed the world and the people across this country who the best bantamweight champion was."

Canizales admitted it hadn't been his best performance. "I was sluggish," he said. "I'd felt good throughout my training sessions, but making 118 wasn't easy, and then the heat took a lot out of me. I got sluggish in the fourth, fifth rounds. But then I reached deep down and forced myself to pick it up.

"I had him hurt a couple of times, but I've got to give him credit; he was determined and kept fighting back. I thought the referee was going to stop it in the sixth and eased off, and that was a mistake. [Reyes] used a lot of dirty tactics, but that's no excuse. If I fight him again, I know that I can knock him out."

Jesse Reid, Canizales' trainer, sees his fighter's future challenges at heavier weights. "Making 118 is hard for Orlando now; young kids can wear him down," he said. "But he's a true champion. He came out in the later rounds and won this fight; I had Orlando winning by two points. I think Orlando was so emotionally into this to knock Sergio out that he got away from his game plan.

"But Orlando's still one of the most complete fighters in the game today. I'd say he's in the top three today, with James Toney and Roy Jones, maybe Pernell Whitaker. Orlando can whip you four different directions. He has the reflexes and the timing, and his age isn't a real problem. I think today it was just [a lack of] stamina from taking off the weight."

As he prepares to tackle new challenges, Canizales figures to be not only bigger, but smarter as well. He is now aware of the dangers of greatness: Stumbling blocks can crop up where you'd least expect them, and fame can become as fleeting as it is fantastic. ■

Bruce Williams,* THE RING'S *correspondent for Mexico, is based in Austin, Texas.

Tom Johnson

(Continued from page 39)

how to accept defeat. I just plugged the stopper into the drain and went on. I didn't go on a rampage or cry or throw a fit. In my heart I accepted the defeat and was already moving on, planning for the next try."

Benefiting from the connections of his promoter, Garden State Boxing, Johnson was rematched with Medina 15 months later, this time in Melun, France. Despite finishing the fight with two injured hands, he took the crown by split decision. Perhaps predictably, no one seemed to notice.

"It was a lonely ride home and a lonely reception," he says. "No one was there. Not just in Detroit [where he's lived since 1986], but in New York, too. It didn't hit the papers, period. Any time you win a fight of that magnitude, you want someone to know about it. Not to get the notoriety was disappointing. People were coming up to me and saying, 'When you gonna fight for the title?' and I had already been champ for four months."

After successfully defending against Baby Sugar Rojas, Johnson was training in New York for a bout against France's Stephane Haccoun when he learned Grissom, 27, had been found dead in the back of a stolen van. The fighter and manager had been best friends.

"Keith usually came to town the last few days before my fights," Johnson told *KO* earlier this year. "He'd always arrive in the middle of the night and knock on my door. I normally don't sleep for two or three nights before a fight anyway, so Keith would sit with me and keep me company. Even though I knew he was dead, I was anticipating his knock on the door so much that one night, a day or so before the [Haccoun] fight, I got out of bed, opened the door, and looked out into the hall for him."

All Johnson found was that he was alone.

As Johnson warmed up for his duel Segura, his dressing room, a small area cor off and separated by Segura's space by o few feet, was as quiet as a church pew. Ther no hand-clapping, no shouting, no scream "who's the man?" Johnson wasn't alone, b might as well have been. Trainer Joey Fa who taped and gloved his fighter, was in an Adviser Duke Durden and Bill Miller, the t of Johnson stablemate James Toney, sat si in a corner. When Johnson emerged to h pads, his opponent began to do the s Segura's punches made more noise.

Johnson's short ring walk was greeted smattering of polite applause, which lon became the standard reception at sterile At City casino ballrooms. He seemed particu focused, as did Segura, a Californian whos style will never be described as mellow. "I he's a tough, well-conditioned fighter, a know he throws almost as many lead rig jabs," Johnson had said the day before. game plan is to make him react to wha doing. Forget the first round. What you see at the start of the second round—that's w I've had my success."

As Johnson had anticipated, Segura, f Coachella, California, opened by firing wid looping rights and looking to engage champion in phone booth warfare. He en modest success, but all three judges gav round to Johnson, 126, Detroit. In the se Johnson revealed his strategy: Forget the B Boom; he would try and fight Segura as John Molina had in February 1993. (In defe the IBF junior lightweight title, Molina pu Segura en route to an eighth-round stoppag would attempt to move, jab, and counte challenger's rushes with right crosses uppercuts. When Johnson connected flush w straight right that wobbled the challenge seemed poised for a dominant, if not abbrev performance. But he was cautious in follo up, a sign of respect for an opponent who fi to last all 12 rounds.

Johnson, 37-2-1 (24), featured additi lateral movement in the third, but in the f Segura, 25-7-1 (11), walked in behind h guard and made the champion fight. featherweights stood flatfooted and threw pu by the dozen, setting the tempo for the rem of the fight. While there was no official p count, it seemed certain that over 12 rounds both threw more than 1,000 blows.

The fifth was as busy as the fourth. Johnson wisely aiming for the body and b continuing to wing his overhand rights. challenger is among the strongest and persistent 126-pounders in the world, a fantastic conditioning allowed him to

nson throughout. If the champion's strategy to make Segura react to him, by the middle nds he had involuntarily switched to Plan B.

Johnson featured movement at the start of the th, but Segura gradually dragged him into an tended infight. Late in the round, the lifornian moved Johnson to a neutral corner d exploded with an overhand right. It was the ly time in the battle that Johnson wobbled. He rned to his corner on unsure legs. By the start the seventh, however, he seemed fully overed.

Johnson waited until the last 10 seconds of e seventh before establishing the momentum he uld carry through the final bell. A rapid-fire ultipunch flurry froze Segura and left a clear essage: No matter how much pressure the allenger applied, and regardless of how many nches he threw, Johnson would not be erwhelmed.

"Francisco Segura was worthy of a number- ne rating," Johnson said afterward. "The only fference in this fight was that he fought a ampion."

Johnson widened his points lead by taking the ighth, ninth, and 10th, maintaining a wondrous ace and repeating his rat-a-tat flurries. Segura ounded to take the 11th, scoring with a handful strong rights. In the 12th, however, his technique ffered, perhaps as a small concession to fatigue. ill, both fighters punched freely to the finish.

"I could've gone another 20 rounds," said egura.

"He was getting to me in every round," said hnson. "One thing I did notice—he did his mework and took away my boxing ability. But think he was surprised by my strength on the side."

The decision was unanimous, with Joe squale and Al DeVito (both USA) scoring 118-110 and Bernie Cormier (Canada) 117-111. THE RING, which scored for Johnson by 116-112, thought the judges were a bit tough on Segura. But to their credit, they agreed on 11 of the 12 rounds. In distance fights, that happens about nce every Halley's Comet.

The referee was Tony Orlando (USA).

***

Whether described as lonely, alone, or a oner, Johnson is amiable and comfortable and engaging in conversation. Moreover, he has one f the warmest smiles in boxing. What's *really* portant to him, he says, is being the best rson he can be. Besides, he's never really by himself because of his spirituality. "It's an erwhelming feeling," he says. "I feel touched n a daily basis. I feel His powers every day. Win, lose, or draw, the support is with the man stairs anyway."

"You know how the title changes people?" says Garden State Boxing matchmaker Carl Moretti. "Well, it hasn't changed him."

If you root for Johnson, you hope for two things: Firstly, an end to the bad breaks. If, as he puts it, he's overcome "adversities on top of adversities," he's due for a run of dumb luck. Secondly, he deserves to be recognized for what he is—one of the most consistent and consistently entertaining performers in the game. Fate will take care of the first part. As for the recognition, it's not likely to come unless he secures a unification match with Kelley. But even if HBO, which has been featuring Kelley, digs deep for dollars, Garden State Boxing might not be too anxious to turn two world champions into one.

Everywhere he goes, Johnson is asked when he's going to fight Kelley. But if the fight fails to materialize, it won't disturb his peace. "All I ever wanted out of boxing was to be respected," he said after beating Segura.

And one day later, he was flying home, USAir to Detroit, all alone. ■

Whitaker

(Continued from page 42)

in terms of prestige and money-generating power: Chavez, Whitaker, Norris, Trinidad, Randall, Simon Brown, Quartey. All but Whitaker and Quartey are aligned with King. The one guy Whitaker wants, of course, is Chavez. The Duvas might say it's tough to match one of their fighters against a King fighter, but more than likely, they're concerned that the risk of fighting one of the guys lower in the pecking order is greater than the benefits.

King's men, Marley and matchmaker Al Braverman, gleefully roll out the red carpet to Whitaker for a match—but not a rematch.

"We offered Frankie Randall; he's ready, willing, and able to fight Whitaker," Marley said. "Felix Trinidad is ready, willing, and able. Terry Norris is ready, willing, and able. We're not in awe of him."

"[Whitaker] ought to kiss our ass to supply one of those guys," Braverman chimed in on a conference call. Both he and Marley laughed.

When King proposed that Whitaker fight Randall, with the winner to get Chavez, the Duvas took it as a slap in the face. Why should Whitaker be asked to *earn* a fight against anybody?

"Pernell wanted the [Chavez] fight the first time so bad, he told Dan [Duva], 'I don't care if he gets $50-million, just get me a nice purse and don't make me fight in Culiacan,'" said Duva publicist Mike Boorman.

But now, with Chavez apparently unavailable for a second go-round, the Duvas appear reluctant to select from the still-tasty appetizers on King's Column B.

What then shall we do?

"If he fights and beats Quartey, when he fights Trinidad he's got two titles and Trinidad has one," Boorman says of Whitaker. "It helps when it comes time to negotiate the purses." And that'll also help to determine which network will televised the fight. Whitaker performs on HBO, while King's fighters battle on Showtime or its pay-per-view arm, SET.

When Lou DiBella, vice president of HBO Sports, said, "It's not Pernell Whitaker's fault these guys won't fight him," he meant on HBO. With Whitaker's ratings "very, very strong for a non-heavyweight fighter," HBO will be content to televise a Whitaker-Quartey bout, or even a Whitaker challenge of another King-promoted fighter, newly crowned IBF junior middleweight champion Vincent Pettway.

"But I'm not salivating over Pernell Whitaker vs. Pettway," DiBella said.

Of all the possibilities in the mix, perhaps the most dangerous for Whitaker, the most scoffed at by the Duvas, and the most deliciously tantalizing for boxing fans is a match with that artist of the 154-pounders, Norris.

Boorman poo-poohs any mention of "Terrible Terry," claiming his stock dropped to almost nothing after Brown blew him out in four rounds last year. But Norris was nothing short of magnificent in the rematch, humiliating a proud warrior with a brilliant display of tactical boxing.

Norris and manager Joe Sayatovich, at one time under contract to the Duvas, jumped ship after a disagreement over money. But Sayatovich said he is more than willing to come to the table for this particular battle.

"We'll be glad to have Terry Norris destroy Pernell Whitaker," the manager said. "I don't think it's even a competitive fight. There's a giant disparity in size and strength here. It's like Terry Norris fighting Chavez. He'd *destroy* Chavez."

Them's fighting words, but despite Norris' proven ability to get down to at least 149 pounds, it's not enough for Lou Duva, who pays Norris quite a compliment when he says he's not interested.

"I would fight a Chavez, a Randall, or a Quartey first," said Duva. "I'm looking to get a more competitive fight, but you're giving away a lot [against Norris]. I'm looking to come up with anything good for Pernell, the public, and good for his title."

Whitaker would like to fight three times in 1995. The most genuine big fight will probably come against Trinidad, whose stature continued to

soar with his prodigious punching display in stopping Yori Boy Campas. But every door Whitaker would like to open has a large man with electrified hair waiting on the other side. And with that to deal with, even the pound-for-pound best can be left muttering, "What then shall we do?" ■

John Scheinman, a frequent contributor to* THE RING, *is a writer and editor based in Washington, D.C.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

fight because he had hurt his right shoulder in training. Then, with the shoulder still tender, he went in against Jacques. By the second round, the shoulder was so sore, he could barely hold his glove up to block punches.

Sensing an opportunity, Jacques' corner yelled themselves hoarse for him to use his own right. "*Derecha, derecha!*" they screamed. But Ankamah kept slipping the punch, and at the midway point of the eighth, he caught Jacques lunging and put him out with a left hook.

Cindy Hubert, a nurse in a cancer ward, frets over her fighter like ... well, like a nurse in a cancer ward. She even arranged to have a doctor, Alex Sheng, serve as his cutman. So what was he doing in the ring with a bum shoulder?

Ankamah's trainer, Baba Sumaile, a Ghanaian transplant who used to work with Azumah Nelson, conceded afterward that his boxer had stopped sparring six days before the contest, figuring everything would be okay by fight night. It's a typical undercard happenstance: When the fighter doesn't fight, no one gets paid, and no one gets noticed.

"I thought it would be okay," explained Ankamah, a sweet-natured fighter who leaves all his aggression in the ring.

The Jacques fight went on after former world champion Manuel Medina had decisioned Jose Martinez in the main event, and only a handful of sleepy fans stayed to see it. Most of them left after Ankamah failed to score his usual early kayo.

"At least I showed I can go past the third round," Ankamah remarked in a somber dressing room.

Hubert, relieved by the win but upset by injury, noted her fighter had kept his poise trying circumstances, waited for his chance made sure to capitalize.

Curtis agreed: "It was a tough fight, a handed fight." Like everyone else who sur Ankamah, the matchmaker knows this puncher with the right tools. He throws clean combinations and shows terrific pow both hands.

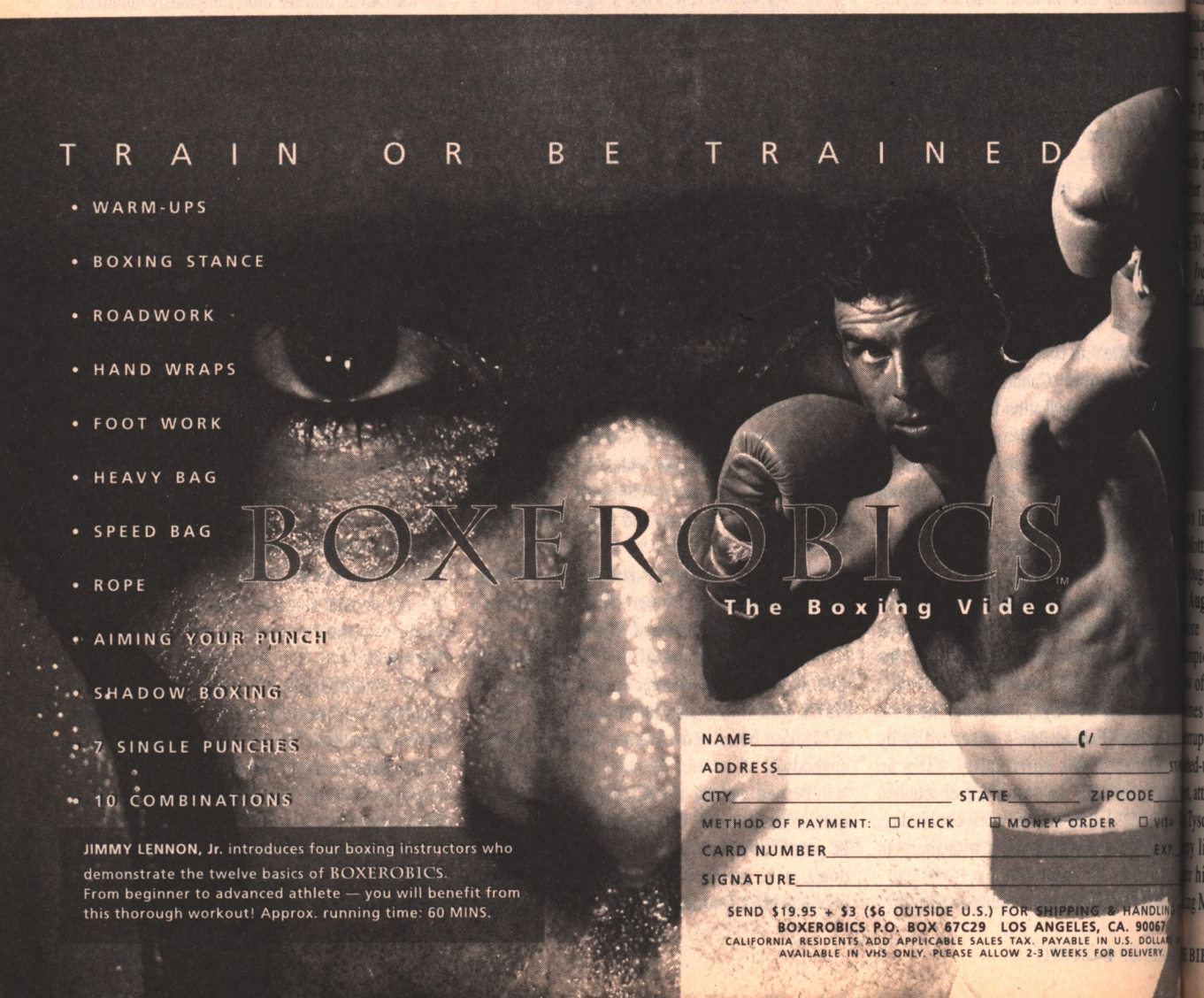
"But we can't tell how good he is yet," added. "We'll know pretty soon, though. He years old."

***

Ankamah has come a long way for h wins in 27 years. At age nine he used to barefoot into the bush in search of game. were night-time prowls. There was no involved; his family needed the meat.

He and the rest of the hunting party w push hard for 10 or 12 miles, sometimes nothing to show for it. Ankamah would get just in time to dress for school. Then he return home to farm his casaba patch.

When Ankamah was 20, his older br



ght him to a boxing match in the city. "I can that," he said. He went to a gym, found a ner, and one year later captained Ghana's ing team at the Seoul Olympics. Ankamah his first fight, then was decisioned by erica's Kenny Gould, who went on to win a ze medal.

When Ankamah returned home, he wanted to professionally, but by then he was working a prison guard, and employment rules ulated he would lose his job if he stepped up the amateurs.

Finally, after compiling an amateur mark of 4, he took the chance and turned pro, scoring quick kayos. But in doing so, he exhausted supply of opponents; no West African elterweight would fight him. Ankamah made way to New York, where he met Hubert, a lifornian who had done promotional work for ther fighters.

"When I first saw Alfred train," Hubert ails, "I was just amazed by the intensity of his rkouts. I've only seen one other fighter train e that: Mike Tyson."

In July, Ankamah made his 10-round debut ainst tough Luis "Tyson" Vasquez at 154 unds. Everyone expected a hard scrap, but kamah walked over his opponent, crushing by second-round kayo.

"We don't want to rush him," Hubert said of e prospect. "A lot of great talents had their reers ruined when they were thrown out there ainst anybody and lost their confidence. On the her hand, we can't really take the conservative proach." She checked her watch. "Alfred will e 30 years old before you know it." ■

Ivan G. Goldman teaches communications California State University, Fullerton.

Mike Tyson

(Continued from page 23)

wn like Detroit. Look at the tradition—Jake LaMotta, Sugar Ray Robinson, Joe Louis, they all fought and trained here."

August 17: At the final press conference before Tyson-Rodrigues, WBC heavyweight champion Oliver McCall, still basking in the glow of his successful defenses against Larry Holmes (W 12) and Peter McNeeley (KO 3), interrupts the proceedings and calls Tyson "a washed-up wanna-be." King cackles and as is his wont, attempts to fan the fires of a potential feud. But Tyson, looking bored, merely yawns like a sleepy lion. "Hey, Mike," one reporter quips under his breath, "how about a quote about making McCall your girlfriend?"

August 19: Weighing a streamlined 218, Tyson drills the ponderous Rodrigues with a leaping left hook in the opening moments of the bout. The capacity crowd shrieks with delight as Rodrigues topples over backward and is counted out by referee Joe Cortes 28 seconds into the round. Interestingly, none of the fans scream for a refund.

"I wish it had gone longer," says Tyson. "I wanted to punish him, make him feel the pain. But can I tell you something? When I landed that hook, I thought I heard something snap."

August 22: Tyson makes a triumphant guest appearance on the *The Tonight Show*. When he playfully reaches for Jay Leno's lantern jaw with a straight right hand, the host falls to the floor. Next week, Stupid Heavyweight Tricks with David Letterman.

August 23: SET/KingVision announces the buy-rate for Tyson-Rodrigues has set a new all-time record for the pay-per-view network. Tyson's purse, including a percentage of the TV money and overseas rights, is approximately $13-million.

September 4: Tyson makes his MTV debut in a Snoop Doggy Dogg video. He gets the girl.

September 6: King holds a press conference to announce that Tyson and McCall will appear in separate bouts on a November 11 card in Las Vegas. McCall will defend against mandatory challenger Lionel Butler, and Tyson will fight Joe Hipp.

October 26: Lagging ticket sales for the heavyweight doubleheader receive an unexpected boost when Tyson is decked by sparring partner Jesse Ferguson.

"Don't underestimate Hipp," blares King. "As you see, anything can happen when two heavyweights get in the ring. Remember, Oliver McCall was once a sparring partner, too."

November 11: Despite scoring a knockdown in the third round, McCall struggles to outpoint Butler via split decision. Chants of "Bulls___" drown out TV analyst Dr. Ferdie Pacheco's postfight monologue.

The opening round of Tyson-Hipp is reminiscent of the first three minutes of Dempsey-Willard. Hipp is twice smashed to the canvas but refuses to stay down. At the end of the round, he reels back to his corner, streaming blood from multiple facial lacerations. Ringside physician Dr. Flip Homansky takes one look and instructs referee Mills Lane to stop the slaughter.

To the surprise of absolutely no one, King announces he will match Tyson and McCall early next year.

November 22: Tyson, King, and Rev. Al Sharpton hand out Thanksgiving turkeys to the needy in Harlem and the Bronx. Just like old times.

December 25: Tyson spends Christmas Day with Camille Ewald at Cus D'Amato's old home in Catskill, New York. (Come on, it could happen.)

January 10, 1996: Stating that no casino has a venue large enough to hold the anticipated crowd, King declares that Tyson and McCall will meet on March 3 at the Superdome in New Orleans. Cajun popcorn for everyone! Sports books in Nevada install Tyson as a 8-1 favorite.

January 23: McCall balks upon learning Tyson is guaranteed $25-million, plus a piece of the pay-per-view loot.

"Hey, I'm the champion," he barks. "Why am I getting only $8-million? There's no fight without me. No *title* fight, anyway."

January 24: WBC President Jose Sulaiman, who made Tyson the organization's top-ranked heavyweight on the very day "Iron Mike" was released from prison, threatens to instantly strip McCall if he pulls out of the fight. No one doubts his sincerity.

January 25: In a hastily arranged press conference, McCall claims he was quoted out of context and that he *never* had any intention of not going through with the fight. King looks on, his face a mask of smiles.

February 18: Tyson quashes rumors that he's out of shape by flattening sparring partners Mark Young and Mark Wills during a public workout. Wills is taken to the hospital with a broken collarbone.

"You saw what I did to those guys," snaps Tyson when a reporter asks if he's worried about McCall's right hand. "Did I look worried?"

February 21: Still seething because Steward has left him to work with Tyson, McCall declares it was really former heavyweight champion Greg Page who prepared him for his title-winning fight with Lennox Lewis.

"I'm gonna show Manny that he made a big mistake," says the champion. "I gave Tyson a black eye when I was his sparring partner, and I knocked him down, too. I'm gonna do a whole lot worse to him on March 3." Pay-per-view sales instantly skyrocket.

March 2: More than 2,000 media members attend a tumultuous weigh-in the afternoon before the fight. McCall, looking wild-eyed and fit, weighs 230 pounds. A subdued Tyson comes in at 220. A scuffle breaks out between the contestants' entourages but is quickly quelled by a flying wedge of security guards.

"You ain't seen nothin' yet," chortles King. "Wait until tomorrow night!"

March 3: The crowd of more than 40,000 greets Tyson with a mighty roar, while McCall's entrance is virtually ignored. But once the opening bell rings, the defending champion demands everybody's attention, including

Tyson's, jolting the challenger's head sideways with a right cross similar to the punch that ended Lewis' reign. Tyson grabs and wrestles until his head clears, but the first round clearly belongs to McCall.

Obviously taken aback by the events of the opening stanza, Tyson employs exaggerated upper body movement in the second. He pressures McCall into the ropes and rips home vicious hooks to the side. The champion grimaces and holds.

More body work in the third takes much of the bounce out of the champ's legs, and in the fourth Tyson unloads his specialty—a double right uppercut, first to the ribs and then the chin. As the second punch smashes home, McCall's body stiffens and quivers. Tyson, an almost imperceptible smirk on his lips, steps in and sends his opponent sprawling to the canvas with a compact left hook. When McCall is counted out 1:38 into the round, Tyson is once more the heavyweight champion of the world. And once more the baddest man on the planet.

"I knew Oliver would be tough," Tyson says. "He definitely hurt me in the first round. But I was in great condition, and like a true champion, I came back. Nothing was gonna stop me tonight.

"I know this is gonna come as a shock, but now that I've accomplished my mission, I'm announcing my retirement. That's it for me. No more fights. The first thing I'm gonna do is write a biography of Jose Torres."

The press isn't sure whether to take Tyson seriously or not. A pocket of reporters begins to search for confirmation from King, but he's nowhere to be found. That's because he's in the back room, on the phone to Marc Roberts, the manager of unbeaten WBA/IBF heavyweight champion Shannon Briggs. Something about a unification bout in October. ■

Kayo Losses

(Continued from page 27)

THE FIVE WHO DIDN'T

•Ruby Goldstein KO by 4 Ace Hudkins, Brooklyn, New York, June 25, 1926: Nicknamed "The Jewel Of The Ghetto," Goldstein, a product of the Lower East Side of Manhattan, was billed as the successor to Benny Leonard. Like Leonard, Goldstein was a quick and slick lightweight. As he said, however, "I could dish it out real good, but I couldn't t… so well."

Goldstein, 19, was 23-0 and heavily f… when he faced Hudkins at the Coney I… Velodrome. When Hudkins went down i… first round, the crowd favorite seemed en ro… a spectacular victory. But "The Nebr… Wildcat" lived up to his nickname, and by m… four Goldstein was a kayo victim.

"He brooded," the *New York Post's* Ike G… wrote of the loser. "Wherever he went, his … seemed to point out his failure."

Goldstein disappeared for a short time… resumed his career in California. Whil… cracked the top 10 at junior welterweight in … and '29, he never regained his form. In … biggest bouts, he was kayoed by neighbor… rival Sid Terris (KO by 1) and Jimmy McL… (KO by 2). Goldstein retired in 1937 and be… one of the greatest referees in boxing history.

Wrote Barney Nagler in *The New York Ti…* "The place of Goldstein's first professional d… is gone, victim of the wrecker's greed. Of thi… carry no mental picture. But of Ruby himself … carry the inward image of a face all tragic… drawn, filled with the lights and shadows … countenance haunted by the desolation of de…

•Lou Nova KO by 14 Tony Gal…

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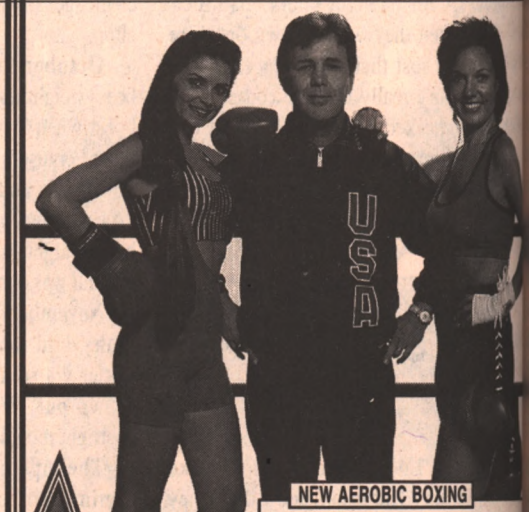

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Philadelphia, September 15, 1939: Maybe, just maybe, Nova was going to be the heavyweight to finally dethrone world champion Joe Louis. The 6'2", 200-pound Californian was the national amateur titlist in 1935, and he went unbeaten in his first 20 pro bouts before losing to the difficult Maxie Rosenbloom. After Nova defeated Tommy Farr in 1938 (W 15) and Max Baer in '39 (KO 11), his time had seemingly arrived. But first there would be a bout with the oft-beaten Galento, who was coming off a fourth-round kayo defeat at the hands of Louis.

Not only did Galento stop Nova, he butchered him; Nova spent three nights in the hospital. The fight, held at Municipal Stadium, was described by the Associated Press as "the most brutal bout of modern times." Wrote Jim Murray in *The Los Angeles Times*, "Galento should have been arrested that night for practicing surgery without a license."

Amazingly, Nova's corner refused to surrender, for which the fighter was forever bitter.

"The Galento fight ruined me," he later told *The Los Angeles Times*. "I was never the same. Physically, I bounced back. But mentally, never. I really believe I'd have beaten [Louis] had I never fought Galento."

Despite the ugly loss to "Two-Ton Tony," Nova managed to secure a shot at Louis, which came in September 1941 before a crowd of 56,549 at the Polo Grounds in New York City. The challenger fought as if frozen by the thought of a beating, and Louis finished him with a single right hand in round six.

In 1942, Nova, having lost the warrior mentality, suffered kayo defeats to Lee Savold and Tami Mauriello. He retired in '45, after being again stopped by Mauriello, this time in one round.

•**Chuck Davey KO by 10 Kid Gavilan, Chicago, February 11, 1953:** In the early-'50s, television discovered boxing, and the sport was never the same. Among the Sweet Science's first TV stars was Michigan southpaw Davey, whose popularity, it was said, rivaled that of the boob tube's first icon, Milton Berle. What wasn't to like? Davey, who was nicknamed "Kid Television," had compiled an amateur mark of 93-1; he had a Master's degree from Michigan State; and he had gone unbeaten in his first 39 pro bouts.

In 1952, Davey skyrocketed into welterweight title contention by twice defeating Chico Vejar, kayoing Ike Williams, decisioning and drawing with Carmen Basilio, and outpointing Rocky Graziano. Still, when Kid Television climbed through the ropes to duke it out with the other Kid, the challenger was a 3-1 underdog. The fight might as well have come with a disclaimer: "Don't believe everything you've seen on TV."

Defending the crown at Chicago Stadium, Gavilan dominated from the start. Davey, a clever boxer, was overwhelmed by the Cuban's strength and bolo punching. The challenger crashed once in round three and three times in the ninth. At the bell for the 10th, Davey, battered and bleeding, remained on his stool.

"I got my *real* college education last night," he said.

Reported United Press International, "Until another one like him comes along, Davey will be remembered as the horrible example of a TV buildup. The truth came as quite a shock when it was proved that Chuck wasn't as good as he looked on the picture box."

Apparently, it was true. Davey went only 5-4 over the rest of his career, including a points loss to Art Aragon and a kayo defeat to Vince Martinez.

•**Gerry Cooney KO by 13 Larry Holmes, Las Vegas, June 11, 1982:** Few could argue that Cooney had more to gain than any heavyweight title challenger in history. What no one thought about was how much he had to lose.

In moving toward the title, and an eagerly anticipated multimillion-dollar showdown with unbeaten WBC champion Holmes (the bout, held at Caesars Palace, would produce a then-record gate of $7,293,600), Cooney gained momentum with each victory. After stopping Jimmy Young, Ron Lyle, and Ken Norton, he improved to 25-0 (21), and rose to number-one contender status. But while he fought reasonably well against Holmes, the difference in class and experience was ultimately decisive.

Cooney showed courage, rising from a knockdown in the second round and trying for a kayo until tiring. But his best left hooks landed low, and by the late rounds Holmes had gained total control. In the 13th, Cooney's trainer, Victor Valle, climbed through the ropes to surrender.

"I'm sorry," Cooney said over and over. In the subsequent months, it was his fans who were sorry. Nagged by injuries and personal problems, "Gentleman Gerry" didn't fight again for 27 months. He never regained momentum, and by the time he lost to Michael Spinks (KO by 5) in 1987 and George Foreman (KO by 2) in '90, he had been reduced to little more than a sideshow spectacle.

"I really believe the Gerry Cooney that knocked out Ken Norton would've knocked out any fighter in the world," said Dennis Rappaport, the heavyweight's co-manager at the time of the Holmes fight. "After the loss, there were a combination of factors. He felt he could've won, and deep down he felt he *should've* won. Psychologically, there were a lot of things at work. He was a super-sensitive guy, and he felt

(Continued on page 58)

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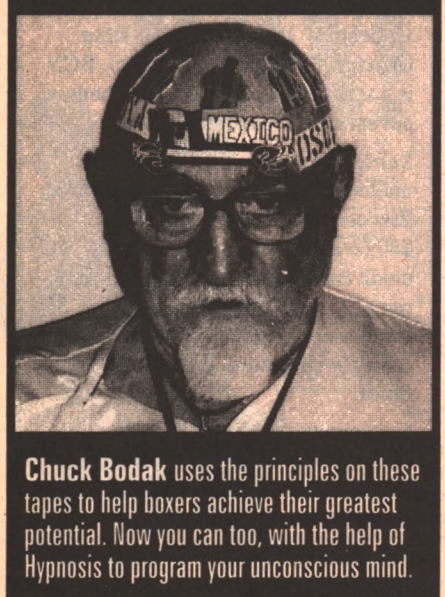

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Kayo Losses

(Continued from page 57)

he had let people down."

•Mark Breland KO by 11 Marlon Starling, Columbia, South Carolina, August 22, 1987: Even before he had graduated with the wildly successful Class of '84, Olympic gold medalist Breland was being compared to Sugar Ray Robinson and touted as a future hall of famer. There were no missteps en route to the title; Breland, a 6'2" welterweight with a big right hand, won his first 16 bouts, then captured the vacant WBA title by knocking out South Africa's Harold Volbrecht.

In his first defense, the New Yorker was matched with long-time contender Starling at the Township Auditorium. Though he boxed well enough to build a points lead, the champion appeared particularly fragile; eight times he either slipped or was pushed to the canvas. In the 11th, Starling exploded, moving Breland to the ropes and dropping him with a tremendous left hook. Weak and wobbly, Breland beat the count of referee Tony Perez, but wasn't allowed to continue.

Though he would draw with Starling in their rematch and regain the vacant title by defeating overmatched South Korean Seung Soon Lee in 1989, Breland had been exposed. Having fallen far short of a hall of fame career, he retired after a kayo defeat to Jorge Vaca in 1991.

"With Mark, it wasn't a case of lacking guts," said Lou Duva, Breland's co-manager. "It was physical. When he hit someone who could stand up to him on the chin and nothing happened, what was he gonna do? Then you have to learn how to fight. Plan A should have been his boxing a little bit better.

"He had a lot of problems with himself after the loss [to Starling]. He's a good kid, but introverted. He took things to heart and couldn't put the loss aside that easy." ■

What If...

(Continued from page 29)

punch. However, LaMotta held a solid edge in quality of competition. As it turned out, the bout was predictable. After 15 grueling rounds, LaMotta won a clear, if somewhat uninspiring, decision.

LaMotta successfully defended one more time, staging a furious rally to stop Dauthuille in the last minute of the 15th round. LaMo… next—and last—defense was against hi… nemesis, Sugar Ray Robinson. The 32-yea… Robinson captured the crown in a bout … labeled "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre," … that saw a bleeding and battered LaMotta … standing when the referee stopped the cont… the 13th stanza. Graziano would receive … more shot at the middleweight crown, b… would come against Robinson, not LaMotta … Rock would score a knockdown, but last … three rounds against the Sugar Man.

THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

The Graziano-LaMotta fight sp… tremendous excitement, especially in the … neighborhoods. Although LaMotta is … champion, Graziano is the sentimental … LaMotta's abrasive personality not only ali… many fans, but also pales next to Grazia… outgoing demeanor.

However, insiders are just as certain … popularity aside, Graziano will have to str… be competitive. His detractors insist Grazian… a piece of himself in the ring after each … bout with Zale, that the middleweight do… have much left. Furthermore, the anti-Gra… faction argues that the crude, brawling Gra… possesses, not counting his huge heart, on… real weapon—a powerful right hand. That … will be defused, the pundits claim, by LaMo… granite chin. If Robinson couldn't stop La… in their series of fights, what chance … Graziano have of doing it?

A final argument centers on the fact … many of Graziano's wins have come a… fighters who were welterweights, and … middleweights.

LaMotta, on the other hand, hasn't … overly impressive in any of his bouts follo… the Cerdan title fight. A non-title fight lo… Robert Villemain has been followed by less … impressive inside-the-distance wins a… clubfighters Dick Wagner and Chuck Hunter, … a pedestrian 10-round decision over … contender Joe Taylor does nothing to enha… LaMotta's stature. While LaMotta … overwhelm lesser fighters with his swarm… tactics, Graziano will welcome a battle in … trenches. Graziano's chin, though not dent-p… like the champion's, is expected to hold up … against LaMotta's lack of one-punch power.

While the fans and the press scrutinize … strengths and weaknesses of both fighters, … is no doubting the drama behind the pairing. … fighters are the same age (28), both have … decidedly anti-authority, both have seen … hand boxing's underbelly, both bring … streetfighter mentality with them, and both …

be king of New York as much as they want to be the ruler of the middleweight division. The fight, to be held at Yankee Stadium, is going to be a brawl.

THE FIGHT

Round 1: LaMotta charges out of his corner at the bell, and Graziano meets him at ring center. LaMotta unleashes a barrage of punches, but most of them land on Graziano's arms and shoulders. Leading with his head, Graziano works his way inside and fires a combination to the body, then takes a big shot to the head in return. LaMotta and Graziano wrestle, the former clinching and the latter trying to pull his arms free. Referee Mark Conn steps in and parts the fighters. LaMotta paws with a jab. Graziano launches a big overhand right that misses. LaMotta counters with a four-punch combination to Graziano's head and body.

Round 2: It's Graziano who is pressing the action at the start of the round. LaMotta appears content to counter. Graziano is missing more than he's landing. It's hard to believe, but LaMotta is moving backward and letting Graziano follow him around the ring. LaMotta drills home a right-hand counter that stops Graziano's forward progress. The Raging Bull flurries, winging rights and lefts. LaMotta sinks a hook into Graziano's belly. Graziano winces and clinches. LaMotta shoulders him off. Graziano scores with a solid right, but LaMotta nonetheless advances. A big uppercut catches LaMotta's attention, but the champion scores with a right to the head. The fighters exchange hooks; they're going toe-to-toe. Here's the war! Conn slaps LaMotta's shoulder and screams at him to watch the elbows.

Round 3: It doesn't take long for this one to heat up. Graziano's corner seems to be working on his right eye between rounds; it looks like he's got some type of coagulant on the far edge of his eyebrow. Both fighters are bulling each other in ring-center, but LaMotta appears to be stronger as he forces Graziano to grudgingly give ground. A Graziano left rings LaMotta's cup, and The Bull grabs his groin. Conn intervenes, sending Graziano to a neutral corner. The challenger is issued a warning for the low blow. LaMotta indicates he can continue. The Bull scores with a right cross. Graziano moves inside a left and blasts two shots to LaMotta's stomach. Clearly, Graziano isn't going to let the warning stop him from attacking the body. LaMotta goes upstairs with a combination—he isn't missing with many punches. A trickle of blood runs down Graziano's right cheek. Graziano lands another solid right to the head.

Rounds 4-6: All three rounds are carbon copies of the first three. For all the movement taking place, the fight could be held in a narrow alleyway. Graziano continues to land big punches, but misses with more. A six-punch barrage at the end of the sixth drives LaMotta into the far ropes and earns Graziano the round. LaMotta remains more consistent. Graziano's cut doesn't worsen, but some swelling becomes noticeable under his left eye.

Round 7: LaMotta marches forward at the bell. Graziano is slow coming out of his corner. It's Graziano, though, who lands the first big punch, yet another overhand right. LaMotta's knees buckle and he stumbles backward. Graziano flails at him. LaMotta rights himself. He takes a tremendous left hook flush on the jaw. How is he standing? LaMotta grabs for Graziano, but The Rock is having no part of it. LaMotta covers up against the ropes. Graziano's punches seem to be slowing. Perhaps he's punched himself out. LaMotta pulls off a neat little spin move and removes himself from the ropes. Graziano instantly pursues. LaMotta finally lands a combination that is punctuated by two hard jabs. It's Graziano who is missing at the bell.

Rounds 8-10: As the bout progresses past its midpoint, LaMotta seems to have had the edge in all but two rounds, though most of the others were close. The eighth round is a wash, as if both fighters agree upon a silent timeout. In the ninth, a clash of heads turns Graziano's nick into an obvious cut, and The Rock bleeds freely for the remainder of the round and most of the 10th. LaMotta establishes some momentum at the end of the ninth, when he hurts Graziano with a wicked bodyshot and follows with a concussive straight right-double hook combination. The 10th continues in the same fashion, with Graziano's punches becoming wilder and LaMotta asserting his will.

Round 11: LaMotta appears to be taking control. He is moving now and then, and Graziano is obligingly chasing after him. The straight right is scoring for LaMotta, and the swelling under Graziano's eye is getting ugly. The eye is going to close unless Graziano's corner can do something between rounds. Graziano tries to corner LaMotta, but the champion moves away. The fighters are in mid-ring. LaMotta fires another right, and Graziano's wild left overshoots the mark. There's an exchange of hooks. It looks as if Graziano's punch gets there first—and with more on it. LaMotta bends and throws a half-hook/half-uppercut that lands very low. He's issued a warning. The fight's been as rough as expected, but there hasn't been a lot of obvious fouling. Graziano misses with a right and eats a stiff right-left combination.

Round 12: Graziano looks desperate as he advances. The challenger lands a nice bodyshot and then comes upstairs with a cross that scores. LaMotta is flatfooted, and Graziano is right in

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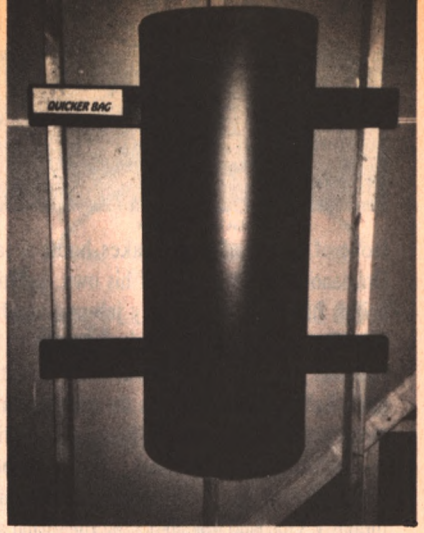

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What If...

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front of him. LaMotta snakes home a jab. Graziano paws with a jab of his own. LaMotta brings his right over a lazy jab and crushes Graziano with the blow. Graziano lurches to his right and goes down! He rises at Conn's count of three. LaMotta almost knocks the referee over in trying to get to Graziano. The Rock isn't covering up. Instead, he's firing back. This is the best action of the fight. Both fighters are punching furiously. Graziano runs into a big right hand and is staggered. LaMotta falls into Graziano's clinch. The middleweights weakly pound each other with rabbit punches. A great round.

Rounds 13-14: LaMotta comes out fast in the 13th, but it's obvious Graziano has recovered from the knockdown, and The Bull quickly backs off. Both fighters look exhausted, and there is more holding in the 13th than in any previous round. LaMotta receives a second warning for throwing elbows. The 14th sees Graziano mount a brief comeback, but by the end of the round LaMotta is landing the more effective punches. A late flurry by the champion steals the round. LaMotta's face shows some wear and tear; there is general puffiness and an abrasion under his right eye. Graziano looks a lot worse; a small cut above his left eye, a gash at the corner of his right eye, and bad swelling under his left eye have turned his face into a bloody mess.

Round 15: The crowd gives both fighters a standing ovation at the end of the 14th, and the fans are still on their feet as the bell sounds to begin the final round. LaMotta sways right and left, but he can't get Graziano to lead. Both fighters look absolutely exhausted. A jab by LaMotta scores. Graziano wings a right hand that lands, but there's nothing on the punch. LaMotta misses with the straight right that's been doing so much damage. Graziano pounds home a left hook to the body. Both fighters willingly clinch. They trade a few short, digging bodyshots. LaMotta moves straight back. Graziano throws a looping right that misses, and The Rock's momentum almost takes him to the canvas. LaMotta tries to follow up while Graziano regains his balance. LaMotta throws a left that lands on the back of Graziano's neck. Graziano moves inside, scoring with still another bodyshot. The fighters exchange hooks. Graziano misses again, but LaMotta comes up short with his counter. The final bell sounds, and the fast-paced fight is over.

The weary warriors half-hug, half-lean on each other before they return to their corners to await the decision. It's been an exciting, if somewhat predictable, fight.

THE DECISION

The scores (in rounds): 8-4-3, 9-4-2 and 8-5-2. The winner and still middleweight champion of the world, by unanimous decision, The Bronx Bull, Jake LaMotta!

THE AFTERMATH

Smiling through his battered countenance, Graziano says, "He ain't too bad a fighter for a bum from the Bronx. He got some sharp elbows." When asked about the decision, the glib middleweight shakes his head and says, "Hell, LaMotta had it on my scorecard, too—and my arithmetic ain't even so good."

LaMotta is his usual loquacious self: "It was a tough fight. Rocky's a tough fighter. I won." When asked about a possible bout with Sugar Ray Robinson, LaMotta scowls. "I fought the sonuvabitch enough already. If the money's right, I'll fight him again. Interview's over."

A Graziano-LaMotta bout would have been a small pebble thrown into the stream of middleweight history, causing a few ripples, but not enough to disturb the water's course. LaMotta's career, one can safely assume, would have followed the same path: a successful defense against Dauthuille and a subsequent legend-making bout against Robinson. It's also logical to assume Graziano wouldn't have been given a final shot at the crown by Robinson. LaMotta's convincing win over Graziano, coupled with The Bull's valiant but decisive loss to Robinson, creates an equation whose sum rules out any reason for a Graziano-Robinson fight. All the other middleweight contenders were in place, awaiting a shot at Robinson's crown. With or without LaMotta-Graziano, they would receive their respective shots. ■

Mark Johnson

(Continued from page 31)

the chin that sent him lurching around the ring. But in the seventh and eighth, Johnson tore up Alvarez, head-to-head, in a match of hand speed and power.

Johnson appeared for the ninth in complete command. Shelving his fluid, elusive southpaw style, he set down flatfooted and began his dissection: thumping hooks to the body, pumping jabs to the face, quick and short, straight lefts down the middle. Standing in front of Alvarez, Johnson was a phantom. A feint. A sudden change of angle. Four punches in counter. T… rounds later, the decision was unanimous.

The crowd, however, booed again. One … imagine Johnson as saxophonist Charlie Pa… when he first began showing up on bandst… blowing magnificent torrents of notes over … Tin Pan Alley show tune; obliterating … melody, playing no passage the same way t… misunderstood by audiences, resented and … feared by lesser talents, but adored by … cognoscenti.

This is how Mark "Too Sharp" John… fights, making opponents appear clumsy … slow, displaying unparalleled virtuosity … speed, delighting boxing fans with somet… different nearly every minute he's in the ri… if they'd only drop their preconceptions and … attention.

***

"People who have seen him know he's … only good, but very good," Great Western Fo… publicist John Beyrooty said of Johnson. "D… forget, this is a guy who went from one o… rounder to fighting the number-two guy i… world and winning."

As of October, Johnson, 23, had a recor… 20-1 (13), and was ranked fourth at 112 po… by the IBF and second by the WBC. The … loss came in his second fight, a four-ro… decision to an Irish fighter, Richie Wento… Belfast. Johnson is a perfect 8-0—against not… but serious opposition—since setting up s… West Coast.

Beyrooty and the rest of the Forum Bo… brass are giddy over the flyweight's succ… They're also lucky. Until the Forum relea… the constant badgering of Johnson's camp … put him on a show in April 1993—a six-ro… unanimous decision win over Rudy Bradl… they had little idea of what they were gettin… didn't matter that Johnson had won the Na… Golden Gloves title in 1988, competed in … Olympic Trials, and won the 1989 … championships, making him the top-ran… amateur flyweight in the country.

As far as they were concerned, here o… doorstep was a flashy, unproven 112-po… southpaw from Washington with a 12-1 re… who, after three years as a pro, had fought … one eight-round bout and never gone past … That perception was dismissed after Johnson … a split decision over Alberto "Raton" Jim… then ranked second by the WBC, in May … Now the Forum knew a whole lot of subst… came with the style.

***

Marcellus Johnson was born Shaft Sweet … Johnson on August 13, 1971. His fat… Abraham Joseph Johnson, whom everyone a…

n, named him, but his mother, Patricia Harris, uld have none of it.

"My mother changed it to Marcellus Joseph nson, but I didn't like that, either," Johnson d. "Everyone was like, 'Hah, that's a girl's me.'"

By the time Ham Johnson and Patricia Harris gether, she already had three children. One them, James Harris, became one of the finest -pound amateurs in the country. He never ned pro. James, five years older than Mark, lected a houseful of championship trophies, never gained wide national acclaim. This obably had something to do with his bad luck the Olympic Trials: In 1984, he lost to Israel nosta, in '88 to Michael Carbajal, and in '92 to ic Griffin.

When Ham began running a boxing program a Washington recreation center, and with nes deeply involved in the sport, rambunctious le Mark wanted in.

"I discouraged him," said Ham, a gregarious racter and former boxer who works the night t on a supermarket loading dock and trains his n during the day. "He was too small. Thirty-six nds. Five years old. He said, 'I wanna box. I nna be like James.' He went upstairs crying. I d, 'Come down here. I'm gonna bloody your se. You're not going to like it.' But the more I ughed him up, the more he liked it."

The family loves to talk about Johnson's first ht. Five years old, 45 pounds, in a kid-gloves tch in Hillcrest Heights, Maryland.

"The minimum weight was 55 pounds," nson recalled. "I had ankle weights on, coins my pockets—but I won the tournament."

"He was so fast to catch on," Ham said. "When I got him out there, his little cup fell wn and the crowd fell in love with him.

"He could throw two and three jabs. The next ek he could throw a right hand. Three weeks r he had his first fight. His mind was open to . He said, 'I'm gonna make him cry.' And he nt out there and stopped his opponent in the cond round."

The brothers, because of their size, sparred gether five days a week in their father's gym. When Johnson fought, his mom worked the rner. And though he did well in school and liked read, Johnson, who longed to outdo his brother d please his father, was a natural-born boxer.

Being in a boxing family allowed that talent to grow to its fullest. But while the brothers would , they would never fight. In the 1988 Nationals Concord, California, Johnson and Harris were ced in the same light flyweight bracket.

"They thought we weren't brothers because e had different last names," Johnson said. "We d to fly my mother out there with birth rtificates, IDs, the whole nine yards."

Johnson turned pro in February 1990, stopping Ray Gonzalez in the third round. After the loss in Ireland, he fought 10 of his next 11 bouts in his hometown of Washington, with the opposition ranging from hapless to helpless.

"I was frustrated with the opponents because people who come to the fights think I'm picking my competition," Johnson said one afternoon at his home base, Finley's Gym, a tiny walk-up above an auto garage in Northeast Washington. "I thought I deserved better opponents. The better the competition, the better you fight."

Live body in front of him or not, Johnson always delighted the home crowd with his flashy style. Crazy trunks by Camacho; hand and foot speed by Whitaker; showboating by Paez.

Promoter/matchmaker Don Elbaum, enjoying a profitable run at a Holiday Inn in Rockville, Maryland, and knowing a good thing when he saw one, tried unsuccessfully to get Johnson on four different shows while hoping to sign him.

"No one wanted to fight him," said Elbaum, who once foraged as far as South Carolina for an opponent. (The fighter had a record of 1-34, and the commission said no.) "He was even willing to give away weight. There were no guys around [to fight]. I was willing to bring in four-round fighters for $750, but I wanted some protection, you know? In the four fights [I tried to make], without exaggeration, I probably ran up a $2,000 phone bill."

So Johnson had to content himself with shining brightly—but making little progress—against inferior opposition until something better came along. Things finally picked up when he and Ham signed on with DeWayne Chambers, a government worker from Washington who dabbles in management, and his partner, Dwight Moseley.

Chambers had heard that Forum matchmaker Tony Curtis loved using little fighters on his shows, and he began sending out newspaper clippings, tapes, and whatever else he could. "Finally, a situation came up where Tony decided to take a chance," Chambers said.

Curtis matched Johnson with Bradley in what looked like just another six-rounder. But the Johnson camp understood the magnitude of the bout.

"Bradley was a good amateur out of St. Louis," Chambers said. "The pressure was on Mark to do well, because if he looked bad, that was it. As it turned out, it was a shutout. Bradley tried his best, but Mark was too fast, too sharp. Too Sharp was too sharp.

"Tony came over right after the fight and said, 'I've got someone for you to fight—a 12-rounder.' I said, 'Tony, don't you think we could have a 10-rounder before a 12?' He said, 'You're too far away to fight less than 12-rounders. If

(Continued on page 62)

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Mark Johnson

(Continued from page 61)

you're going to fight here, we've got to see what you've got.'"

"I thought he had a lot of skills," said Curtis, who immediately pushed Johnson into a fight against the second-ranked Jimenez. Stepping up that far was extremely dangerous. Jimenez was a thick-chested, ever-advancing terror of a fighter, and when the two met, Johnson looked like a matchstick in comparison. But the bout was considered a gamble worth taking.

"That's what we always talked about between ourselves," Ham Johnson said. "That if we got a chance at a belt [the bout was fought for the WBA Penta-Continental title], we'd take the fight."

"We didn't know who the opponent was," added Mark. "All we knew was that it was for a title."

Chambers, on the other hand, was quite nervous. "I found out what Alberto was about," he said. "I talked to Mark in private in the alley at Finley's. I said to him, 'Can you fight for 12 rounds every minute?' He said, 'I'll do it. I'll be ready.' I said, 'You'll have to be.'"

"If you get a copy of the tape, even the sportscaster said [Jimenez] was going to knock me out," Johnson said, remembering the May 1993 crossroads bout. Indeed, as early as the fourth round, Prime Ticket announcer Ruben Castillo was predicting Johnson would run out of gas. But despite some scary moments, he never did. In a thrilling, tactical war, Johnson won a stunning 12-round decision.

Curtis still marvels when thinking about it.

"That was a helluva fight," he said. "When I made that fight, I didn't know what would happen [to Johnson] with a guy of that caliber. That's why I had given them a tape [of Jimenez]. I didn't want to be responsible."

Though no longer part of Johnson's career, Chambers also gets a kick out of talking about the fight: "You know how a lizard picks off a fly? They were like that. Alberto was like, 'Damn!' He put a stamp on his ass!"

***

Since beating Jimenez, Johnson has rolled up six straight wins. He went home to Washington in April to fight a 10-rounder against rock-hard Ancee Gedeon. The bout, though minor in the grand scheme of Johnson's career, was a thing of beauty. At the final bell, the D.C. Starplex/Armory crowd rose in a standing ovation. Eddie Futch, Riddick Bowe, and Rock Newman were in attendance; they, too, stood and paid their respects.

But all has not been smooth. In Septe[illegible] 1993, Johnson was arrested and charged [illegible] conspiracy to distribute cocaine. His story [illegible] you hear often: "Hanging with the wrong fr[illegible] got me caught up in something. I knew wha[illegible] of business they were caught up in, but I d[illegible] know I could be charged with anything."

Although most court documents have p[illegible] inaccessible, it appears Johnson will escape [illegible] He did, however, spend a brief period in jail.

"I was like a two-year-old kid staying [illegible] alone, and a monster comes up—that sca[illegible] Johnson said. "This is something that has g[illegible] looking at my life, making me think ha[illegible] prejudging my friends. Right now I hav[illegible] friends, just me and my lady [and three child[illegible]

What happened to Johnson deeply hu[illegible] father, who has devoted so much of his li[illegible] teaching kids to box and stay off the streets.

"How can you call the kettle black [illegible] yours is burnt itself?" Ham said. "You can't [illegible] kids to stay out of trouble if yours are in trou[illegible]

"You wonder how this kind of thing [illegible] happen with good parents. But when you'[illegible] amateur, the guys with the big cars come u[illegible] give you $2,000, $3,000, and soon you say, [illegible]

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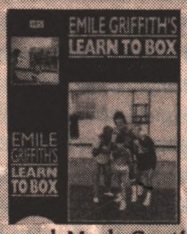

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ou make that money?'"

The experience seems to have screwed nson's head on straight. His father says Mark to kids in a local after-school program; that spoken about the dangers of the streets in shington boys clubs. Johnson, who used to be and reserved around people he didn't know now speaks his mind confidently.

Ham, impossibly outgoing and known to k into a James Brown dance step when he's ing especially good, is proud of his son's gress.

I said, 'People are going to be asking you sions, touchy questions. You have to learn to express yourself.' He said, 'I don't want alk; *you* talk.' I said, 'You have a good head your shoulders. Use it.'"

In any weight class from lightweight up, nson would have a chance at being a boxing His ring charisma is electrifying, but weights almost never get on network vision, and only a superbout, like Chiquita nzalez-Michael Carbajal, draws national nion. There also hasn't been an American- world flyweight champion since 1931.

Matchmaker Curtis believes he can make nson a star, at least with Mexican fans.

"Yes, I can sell him," he said. "He is mething I can sell because they look for a black ter fighting a Mexican, and they'll want to the Mexican beat him."

Curtis said he's been told by Willie Abraham, has managed such little giants as Guty rcudas and Miguel Canto, that in Mexico, nson is already called the Sugar Ray Robinson Sugar Ray Leonard of the 112-pounders.

"He's ready for a title shot, but the champions not ready for him," Curtis said. "Most rated ys won't get in there with him. He's gonna for the title, but he's got to get a mandatory. ink he will be the next marquee name in the e divisions."

Johnson, ready to fight anyone, can't wait.

"I want to win the flyweight title and then dy," he said. "Once I beat Jimenez, who was a one step from winning the world title, I w." ■

John Scheinman, a frequent contributor to* The Ring, *is a writer and editor based in shington, D.C.

Irving Cohen

(Continued from page 45)

ause Rocky kept repeating it. So Dad says, cky, think about this.' He instinctively felt it uld be a bad move, but the enthusiasm Rocky ex- sed in wanting the fight made him into a believer.

"He told Rocky he would make the fight under one condition: Rocky would have to take training seriously. So for the first time Rocky went to a training camp, Greenwood Lake in upstate New York, and got himself into top condition for a fight."

Graziano entered the Garden ring a 5-1 underdog, and virtually no one gave him a chance. After two rounds, you could have gotten 20-1 that Graziano wouldn't finish the fight.

"I think Rocky was hit harder in that fight than in any successive fight, other than the third Zale fight," says Herb Cohen. "He got hit with punches you wouldn't believe. We thought his head would be taken off. He staggered a little bit and took the punches. For two rounds he took a tremendous beating.

"The third round started and Rocky threw a right hand that everybody in the arena saw coming except Billy Arnold. And Arnold's legs went, just sunk, and then there was a series of about 20 right hands where Rocky set the guy up with the left hand and banged with the right. And he knocked him out. Knocked him cold."

Arnold was never the same after the beating. He eventually faded into obscurity, never winning another important bout. For Graziano, it was the beginning of a sensational string of knockout victories that would eventually take him all the way to the middleweight championship.

"After the Arnold fight we had a different Graziano," says Herb Cohen. "You could see the difference in the results, the ability to take a punch, to have stamina, to come back. And he finally realized what Dad and Whitey Bimstein, his trainer, were saying to him about training."

Irving Cohen's initial reluctance to accept Arnold as an opponent was based on his belief that careful and intelligent matchmaking was one of the most important functions he could perform as a manager. He did not believe in rushing his fighters. Even a rugged and dangerous fighter like Graziano was nurtured, having close to 40 bouts before engaging in his first 10-rounder. Graham fought 34 times before he was allowed to box eight rounds. Russo had 35 bouts before his first 10-round main event. This was the pattern for most of the fighters Cohen managed.

"In those days, there were so many fight clubs," says Herb Cohen. "You had the luxury of bringing a fighter along slowly. You had boxing six nights a week in New York."

About the time Graziano's boxing career was coming to an end, Graham's star was on the rise. Graham, a good-looking, clever strategist with an iron chin, was one of the most accomplished boxers of his era.

In February 1951, the welterweight title was up for grabs when Sugar Ray Robinson vacated and rose to middleweight. That left Kid Gavilan and Graham, the top-rated contenders in the 147-pound division, to duke it out for the crown. The fight was a natural; the fighters had split a pair of close decisions the year before. Unfortunately, nothing in boxing is that simple.

In the '50s, an insidious organization known as the International Boxing Club monopolized the promotion of big-time professional boxing in the United States. James D. Norris, a wealthy sportsman and owner of several major arenas and stadiums, was its president. Supplying the important fighters for Norris' shows was his associate, one Frankie Carbo. It was Carbo, a notorious hoodlum and racketeer with a police record dating back to 1928, who was the real power behind the IBC. By using front managers, Carbo had for years controlled the destinies of dozens of contenders. In silent partnership with Norris and the IBC, he "owned" championships and manipulated the promotion of major matches, many of them televised. Carbo was boxing's dictator, czar, and commissioner all in one. Managers and boxers who refused to follow the edicts of the all-powerful IBC were denied opportunities to advance their careers.

In early-1951, Norris met with Cohen to discuss a title bout between Graham and Gavilan. Present at the meeting was the ubiquitous Carbo.

"They told my father they wanted to make the match with Gavilan for the title," says Herb Cohen. "They expressed the feeling that Graham would win because he had the style to beat Gavilan. Dad, of course, agreed and was anxious to sign for the fight. What they then told him was they intended to make the fight on the condition that they would get a piece of Graham. When Dad asked for a further explanation, they told him they wanted to take control of his management.

"My father did not want to give up managerial control of Billy Graham, but he also knew that it could be the only way Graham would ever get to fight for the title. What Dad said was, 'Look, you're talking about the boy's career, about his fighting for the championship. I'm not in favor of this, but I'm going to present it to Billy. If Billy wants to take it under these conditions, he can, and I will step aside.'

"So he went and had a meeting with Billy and his father and presented the Norris-Carbo proposal to them. And Billy and his father said, 'Irving, we started with you and we will finish with you. We will not take the fight under those conditions.' So they turned it down, and the fight did not take place at that point."

The title fight went to Gavilan and Johnny Bratton, both of whom were Carbo-controlled fighters. Gavilan defeated Bratton to win the championship.

Over the next six months, Graham maintained his number-one contender status. The

sportswriters and fans clamored for a title fight, and the ring announcers would introduce Graham as the "uncrowned welterweight champion."

Perhaps public opinion forced Norris' hand. He decided to promote the match. It was scheduled for August 29, 1951, at Madison Square Garden. Graham was ecstatic. He thought it was too good to be true. In a way, it was.

Herb Cohen fills in the details as they were told to him by his father: "On the day of the fight someone called my father—I don't know who it was—and tells him that he has a problem. The caller says that Graham has to knock out Gavilan to win. He tells Dad that, 'they've got the officials.' And he names the referee and two judges who, he claims, the athletic commission has picked to officiate."

Cohen knew the New York State Athletic Commission, as a deterrent to bribes, kept the names of the two judges and referee secret until immediately before the fight. If what the caller said was true, Graham indeed had a problem.

Understandably upset, Cohen arrived at the Athletic Commission office at about one in the afternoon to file a formal complaint. He described the phone call and identified the officials who the mysterious caller said were assigned to work the fight.

"Someone at the commission attempted to placate my father," says Herb Cohen. "He was told it was impossible that anyone would know in advance who the referee and judges would be. They assured him that everything was on the up-and-up."

Cohen was not reassured. But he left the commission's office fully expecting that because of his complaint they would at least switch the officials.

On the night of the fight, Cohen was stunned to learn that the New York commission, for whatever reason, had not acted on his information. The two judges and the referee were the same ones the caller had identified earlier in the day.

As it turned out, Graham fought his heart out, but to no avail. At the end of 15 hard-fought rounds, Gavilan retained the title on a split decision.

As soon as the decision was announced, the jeers and hoots of thousands of spectators echoed throughout the Garden. Cigar butts and other assorted debris were thrown into the ring. A near-riot ensued. The referee and judge who voted for Gavilan needed a police escort to get back to the safety of the dressing rooms. Although the fight had been close, the overwhelming consensus of the reporters at ringside and the fans in the arena was that Graham had won.

Had Graham been another victim of boxing's incessantly corrupt power structure? Considering the fact that he had turned down the IBC's original offer, and the strange goings-on the day of the fight, there is strong evidence to that effect. It certainly would not have been the first time Carbo & Company fixed the outcome of a major fight.

In his autobiography, *Only The Ring Was Square*, former Madison Square Garden matchmaker Teddy Brenner claims Cohen told him that years after the fight, judge Artie Schwartz confessed he had been coerced into voting for Gavilan. Schwartz, who was gravely ill at the time, had asked Cohen to visit him at the hospital. In what amounted to a deathbed *mea culpa*, he told Cohen "the boys ordered me to do it," and expressed regret for what he had done.

In 1957, the Justice Department finally broke up the IBC monopoly and put it permanently out of business. Carbo was convicted of extortion and racketeering and received a 25-year prison sentence. Unfortunately, his sentence came years too late for Graham and who knows how many other exploited victims of his pernicious greed.

"Billy Graham was really a gentleman, he really was," says Herb Cohen. "He should have been champion. He earned it. He didn't get it. Yet he never showed any real bitterness. And he never regretted his decision not to leave my father and hook up with Carbo, even though it cost him a world title. I don't know how many fighters would have refused a title fight because their manager was not willing to accept the terms."

The loyalty displayed by Graham was not unusual in Cohen's relationship with his fighters. He was one of the great father-figure managers. Graham and Graziano, both of whom are dead, often spoke in glowing terms of their gratitude and affection: "One thing about Irving Co said Graham. "He would not take a nickel did not belong to him. He was a very gene lovely man. He was like a father to me." sentiment was echoed by Graziano: "L Irving, with the baby blue eyes and quiet w was manager, father, and uncle to me."

"My father offered his fighters more than a business relationship," says Herb Cohen. relationship extended to them as human be as sons, as friends. He was devoted to al fighters. They were like his children."

Cohen believed in earning his keep. He c have managed Graziano's blossoming business career (the former champ wante continue their professional relationship), bu declined. Cohen's expertise was in boxing show business. He explained to Graziano th couldn't do anything for him in his profession, that all he'd be doing is going for the ride. He told Graziano to go with pe who could move him ahead.

The early-'60s found Cohen managing world-famous Stillman's gymnasium during last years of its existence. He also promoted at the St. Nick's Arena until the historic p palace closed its doors forever in 1962. Tha Sunnyside Garden as the only continuously a New York fight club.

Professional boxing in the Big Apple winding down, and so was Irving Cohen. developed glaucoma in his right eye, and his began to deteriorate. A doctor advised a stressful lifestyle, so Cohen and his wife, Jean decided to retire to Florida. He never looked b

"It's funny," recalls Herb Cohen, "but afte many years in the sport, Dad rarely went to fights or watched boxing on television. The lost its appeal for him. He'd complain talented boxers were being rushed, that the clubs, the training grounds where a figh develops and learns his trade, were gone. He said the boxers of today all fought in the s style, whereas in the old days you had interesting variety of different styles.

"We went to see the closed-circuit of D vs. Sugar Ray Leonard, the famous 'No M fight, and Dad walked out totally disgusted. isn't boxing anymore,' he said."

When Duran said *no mas*, Cohen said more, and he never again went to the fights. who could blame him? Cohen belonged another era. He lived through and had be major player during boxing's golden age. A purist in a sport that is seldom pure, he offe his fighters competent management, a fair d and a compassionate heart. No fighter could for more.

Michael Silver, a long-time contributor THE RING, *is based in New York City.*

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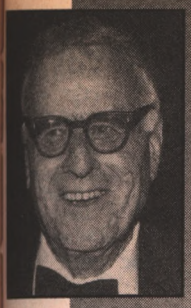


FISKE ON FIGHTS

By Jack Fiske

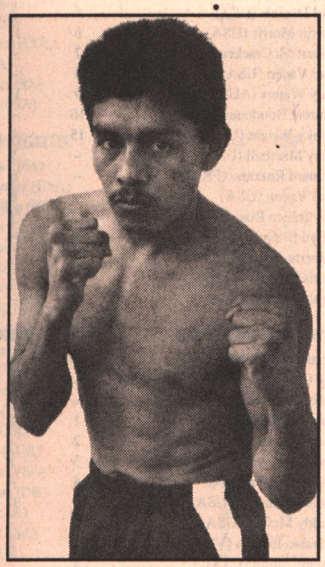
Where are you when we need you, One-Round Hogan?

If "location, location, location" is the byword of retail business, "identity, identity, identity" is what makes boxing go round and round. Unfortunately, identity is in very short supply nowadays, and boxing is suffering the effects.

We all know by now about the outrageous number of so-called world champions. Only Dr. Joyce Brothers (maybe) can name them all. But in addition to the added weight divisions and the rapidly proliferating alphabet bodies, the latest threat to our sanity is the preponderance of similar names that make it virtually impossible to distinguish one performer from another.

There are too few readily identifiable ring names like Kid Chocolate. Or Knockout Brown. Or Dixie Kid. Or Young Stribling. Or Mexican Joe Rivers. Or Fighting Harada. Or Beau Jack. What we have are literally dozens of fighters with the same last name—and often the same *first* name. The bewildered fan is hard-pressed to know who's who, and as a result often doesn't care.

To illustrate, the 1994 edition of *The Boxing Record Book* lists 42 Smiths, 38 Johnsons, 35 Martinezes, 32 Rodriguezes, 27 Gonzalezes, 24 Jacksons, 21 Lopezes, 20 Davises, 18 Joneses, 16 Gomezes, 15 Torrezes, 11 Diazes, 10 Sanchezes, 10 Vargases, 10 Sotos, and nine Chavezes. The Smiths include two Terrys, two Tonys, two Randys, two Peters, a Jake, and a Jacques. There's a Jerry Lee Smith and a Jerry Lee Jones. There are two Hector Lopezes.



Julio Cesar Whatshisname (Borboa)

Only James Smith had the right idea. He became "Bonecrusher" and immediately stood out in the crowd. Francisco Chavez is another with a sense of publicity. He calls himself "Surfing" Chavez. Can't confuse him with anybody else.

Even given names can befuddle you. How about Julio Cesar Chavez, Julio Cesar Green, Julio Cesar Vargas, Julio Cesar Vasquez, and Julio Cesar Borboa? It's mind-boggling.

We're talking mostly here about Hispanic fighters, whose surnames are so similar. Fighters from other cultures present problems in other ways. The names of Thai fighters are usually lengthy and impossible to pronounce. The Koreans all seem to be named Park or Lee. The newest entries have arrived from behind the shredded Iron Curtain: Russians, Poles, and Latvians. Then there are the South Africans, who have come to the forefront. Some of their names are tongue-twisters, too.

After the turn of the century, and before and after World War I, fighters often used ring names to keep their families from discovering they were boxing. More often, however, the name-changes were brought about by the fact that their old-country names were unpronounceable by a ring announcer and too long for a headline writer. Their new names were instantly recognizable, even if Jewish fighters sometimes took Italian names, and Irish fighters did the same. Is that the way out of our present-day problem?

Can you imagine a saloon discussion anywhere outside of Thailand of the merits of Saenmuangnoi Lookchaopormahesa, the reigning World Boxing Federation junior bantamweight champion, as opposed to, say, Yodsing Saengmorokot, another Thai and a recent kayo victim of WBC strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez? Or Dariusz Michalczewski, the newly crowned WBO light heavyweight titleholder, being compared to Polish cruiser Przemyslaw Saleta? Boxing thrives on such arguments, but today who can remember the names, much less pronounce them?

Give credit, though, to Lookchaopormahesa, who wisely utilized the name of the gym where he trains and is now introduced as Samson Elite-gym. All the others should learn from him.

Maybe what's needed is a universal rule similar to that utilized in thoroughbred racing: no name more than 18 letters (including the space), and no name that's been used over the past 10 years.

Modern-day names like Jimmy Magnifico and Jimmy Thunder are welcomed. Too bad they can't fight much.

Hurry back, Pretty Boy Felstein, wherever you are. ■

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBC ratings were compiled as of November, the WBA ratings as of September, and the IBF ratings as of October.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oliver McCall (USA)	C	–	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	C	C
Tony Tucker (USA)	1	1	1
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	6	4
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	12	–
Joe Hipp (USA)	4	5	3
Larry Donald (USA)	5	11	8
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	6	9	12
Bruce Seldon (USA)	7	2	2
Henry Akinwande (GB)	8	7	6
Larry Holmes (USA)	9	–	–
Frank Bruno (GB)	10	–	–
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	23	3	–
Frans Botha (SA)	14	4	9
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	8	5
Nate Tubbs (USA)	27	10	–
Buster Mathis (USA)	20	–	7
Corrie Sanders (SA)	16	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	1	6	8
Carl Thompson (GB)	2	9	9
Adolpho Washington (USA)	3	12	3
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	4	7	2
Kenny Keene (USA)	5	2	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	6	–	–
Jade Scott (USA)	7	–	6
David Izegwire (NIG)	8	4	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	9	–	12
Akim Tafer (FRA)	10	11	10
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	1	7
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	16	3	–
Ralf Rocchigiani (GER)	–	5	–
Nate Miller (USA)	14	8	4
Richard Mason (USA)	28	10	5
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	1

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (USA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	2	5
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	2	–	3
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	3	6	1
Randall Yonker (USA)	4	11	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	5	5	9
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	6	3	–
Frank Tate (USA)	7	4	–
Rudy Nix (USA)	8	–	6
Gary Delaney (GB)	9	–	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	10	–	12
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	7	–
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	8	–
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	18	9	10
Audrey Nelson (USA)	–	10	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	12	2
John Scully (USA)	21	–	4
Charles Williams (USA)	12	–	7
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	8

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	1	9	7
Michael Nunn (USA)	2	8	3
Tony Byrd (USA)	3	1	1
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	4	5	–
Graziano Rocchigiani (GER)	5	10	–
Steve Little (USA)	6	3	9
Thulane Malinga (SA)	7	–	–
Cornelius Carr (GB)	8	–	–
Tim Littles (USA)	9	2	6
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	10	–	–
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	–	4	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	20	6	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	–	7	4
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	2
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	5
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	22	–	8
Tony Thornton (USA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	1	9	6
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	10	5
Silvio Branco (ITA)	3	–	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	4	7	7
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	5	–	–
Joe Lipsey (USA)	6	8	4
Richie Woodhall (GB)	7	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	8	1	8
Neville Brown (GB)	9	–	11
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	10	5	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	2	3
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	3	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	4	2
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	6	1
Rafael Williams (USA)	25	–	9
Juan Carlos Viloria (COL)	–	12	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	C
Julio C. Green (USA)	1	3	1
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	2	1	8
Simon Brown (USA)	3	7	10
Bronco McKart (USA)	4	–	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	5	2	11
Darrin Morris (USA)	6	11	9
Robert McCracken (GB)	7	–	7
Paul Vaden (USA)	8	–	2
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	9	12	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	10	–	–
Winky Wright (USA)	15	4	–
Tony Marshall (USA)	–	5	–
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	–	6	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	8	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	17	9	4
Lloyd Honeyghan (GB)	14	10	–
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	–	–	5
Raul Marquez (USA)	25	–	6

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Gary Jacobs (GB)	1	5	5
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	–	1
Andrew Murray (GUY)	3	1	3
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	–	12
David Gonzalez (USA)	5	12	6
Buddy McGirt (USA)	6	–	8
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	7	2	–
Lonnie Smith (USA)	8	–	–
Luis Santana (USA)	9	–	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	10	–	11
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	15	3	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	4	2
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	6	4
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	7	–
Roger Turner (USA)	29	8	9
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	–	9	–
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	7
Santos Cardona (PR)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C
David Kamau (USA)	1	7	8
Tony Lopez (USA)	2	–	–
Jan Bergman (SA)	3	6	–
Ross Hale (GB)	4	12	–
Hugo Pineda (COL)	5	4	4

Juan Martin Coggi (ARG)	6	3	–
Giovanni Parisi (ITA)	7	–	5
Hector Lopez (MEX)	8	–	–
Darryll Tyson (USA)	9	–	7
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	10	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	11	1	–
Get Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	12	2	–
Won Park (KOR)	23	5	–
George Scott (USA)	–	8	–
Valery Kayumba (FRA)	21	9	–
Christian Merle (FRA)	30	10	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Rodney Moore (USA)	26	–	2
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	3
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	–	–	6
Ray Oliveira (USA)	15	–	9
Freddie Ladd (USA)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Nazarov Olzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	–	–	C
Miguel Julio (COL)	1	9	1
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	2	–	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	3	8	9
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	4	–	7
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	5	–	–
Marty Jakubowski (USA)	6	–	12
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	7	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	8	–	–
John Avila (USA)	9	–	–
Steve Johnston (USA)	10	–	11
Joey Gamache (USA)	–	1	–
Tony Lopez (USA)	–	2	4
Carl Griffith (USA)	–	3	–
Fabian Tejeda (ARG)	–	4	–
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	25	5	–
Dino Canoy (PHIL)	–	6	–
Eduardo Molina (COL)	–	7	2
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	–	10	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	–	12	3
Orlando Marimon (COL)	–	–	5
John Lark (USA)	–	–	6
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	14	–	8
Ivan Robinson (USA)	20	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	C	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
John-John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	1	–	8
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	–	–
Ed Hopson (USA)	3	4	3
Tony Pep (CAN)	4	–	–
Jesse James Leija (USA)	5	5	7
Fred Liberatore (USA)	6	12	5
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	7	2	–
Jacobin Yoma (FRA)	8	–	–
John Montantesz (USA)	9	–	–
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	10	–	–
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	–	1	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	18	3	–
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	–	6	–
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	7	1
Calvin Grove (USA)	11	8	6
Lamar Murphy (USA)	–	9	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	28	10	–
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	2
Arturo Gatti (USA)	12	–	4
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	9
Fernando Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kevin Kelley (USA)	C	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	7
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	5	2
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	4	–	10
Jose Badillo (PR)	5	10	6
Manuel Medina (MEX)	6	–	12
Tony Green (USA)	7	–	3
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	8	2	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	9	–	–
Chris Saguid (PHIL)	10	–	–
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	1	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	11	3	4
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	13	4	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	21	6	8
Fernando Rodriguez (USA)	–	7	–
Francisco Segura (USA)	19	8	1
Sean Murphy (USA)	–	9	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	5
Benny Amparo (USA)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	–	5
Tracy Patterson (USA)	2	–	–
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	3	–	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	4	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	5	8	6
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	6	–	7
Eddie Croft (USA)	7	–	–
Sergio Liendo (ARG)	8	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	9	–	3
Juan Polo Perez (COL)	10	11	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	26	2	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	18	3	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	15	4	–
Junior Jones (USA)	–	5	10
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	16	6	–
Nestor Farias (ARG)	–	7	–
Hee Yun Kwon (KOR)	–	9	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	1
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	13	–	4
Agapito Sanchez (DR)	20	–	8
Felix Camacho (PR)	–	–	9

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	4
Nana Konadu (GHA)	2	5	–
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	3	–	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	4	–	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	5	7	–
Roberto Moran (ARG)	6	–	–
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	7	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	8	–	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	10	–	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	2	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	15	3	10
Abraham Torres (VEN)	22	4	9
John Michael Johnson (USA)	13	6	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	11	8	2
In Sik Koo (KOR)	–	9	–
Winsut Chuvatana (THAI)	–	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	3
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	27	–	5
Sergio Reyes (USA)	20	–	6
Mbuelo Botile (SA)	30	–	7
John Armour (GB)	12	–	8

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	C	–
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	C
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	1	10	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	2	–	–
Danny Romero (USA)	3	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	4	–	3
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	5	4	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	6	–	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	7	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	8	–	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	9	7	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	10	–	–
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	–	1	–
Julio Gamboa Blanco (NIC)	17	2	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	3	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	5	–
David Griman (VEN)	–	6	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	23	8	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	11	9	10
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	1
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	–	–	2
Johnny Tapia (USA)	–	–	4
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	5
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	24	–	6
Ratanachai Sow Voraphin (THAI)	29	–	7
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	8
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	1	9	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	2	–	4
Danny Nunez (DR)	3	8	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	4	–	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	5	–	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	6	–	8
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	7	–	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	8	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	9	–	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	10	5	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	22	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	20	3	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	21	4	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	6	1
Luigi Camputaro (ITA)	15	7	–
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	–	10	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	18	–	3
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	5
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Robbie Regan (GB)	12	–	7
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	–	–	9
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	10

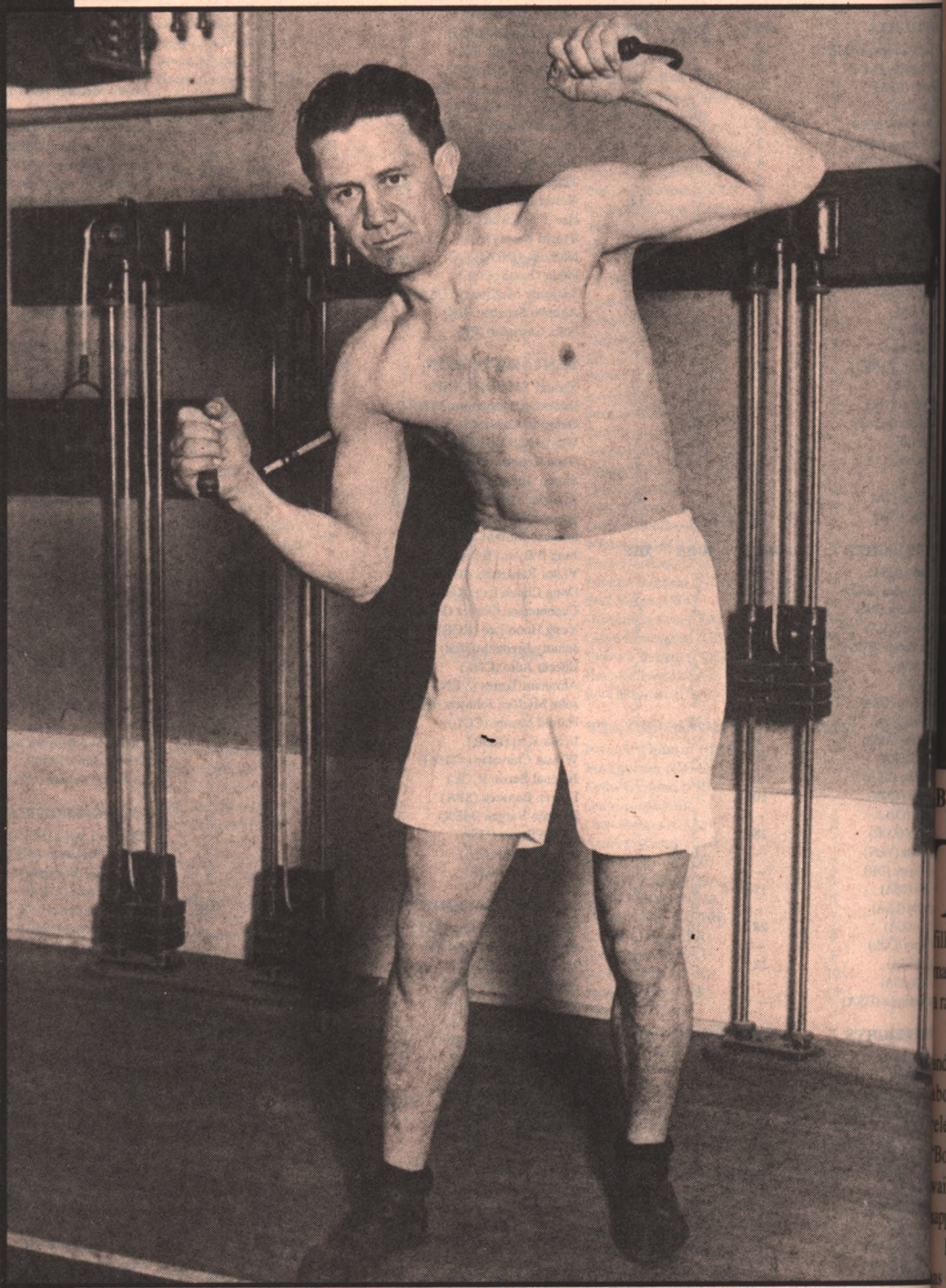
JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	1	–	1
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	–	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	–	5
Jesus Chong (MEX)	4	8	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	5	–	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	6	–	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	7	3	–
Manuel de Jesus Herrera (DR)	8	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	9	9	–
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	10	–	8
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	19	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	27	2	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	11	4	4
Fahlan Sakkirin (THAI)	–	5	2
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	6	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	13	7	7
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	3
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	–	–	6
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	23	–	9
Rosando Alvarez (NIG)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	4	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	6	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	4	–	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	5	–	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	6	1	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	7	7	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	8	8	–
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	9	12	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	10	11	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	20	2	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	–	3	1
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	–	5	–
Manuel Herrera (DR)	–	9	–
Keum Yung Kang (KOR)	–	10	–
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	2
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	3
Jerry Pahayahay (PHIL)	27	–	4
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	5
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	–	6
Roger Espanola (PHIL)	22	–	7
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	8
Dominggus (INDO)	–	–	9
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

From THE RING, April 1958

THE MINUTEMEN OF BOXING



One of the most successful substitutes of all-time was lightweight Willie Ritchie, who subbed for Ad Wolgast in November 1911, and a year later beat him for the title.

By Johnny Salak

There are no substitutes for the Minutemen of boxing. For these are the emergency fighters, boys who get the 11th-hour call filling in as last-minute replacements when the main event folds for one reason or another. Or for a rash of reasons.

The lot of the substitute is not a happy one, and his chances of making good are usually just about nil. Not that in the last-minute press releases he won't exude confidence and say, "Boy, this is the one big opportunity I've been waiting for! I had a hunch this was going to happen so I've been working hard at the gym."

He knows that even though the commission has okayed him, he's probably not in the best of condition. Sure, he's been down to the gym, but he's been taking it easy and slopping it up a bit. Besides, the main guy in there has probably turned down half-a-dozen other opponents until they came to our friend, the Minuteman, at which point the guy in the driver's seat eagerly accepted.

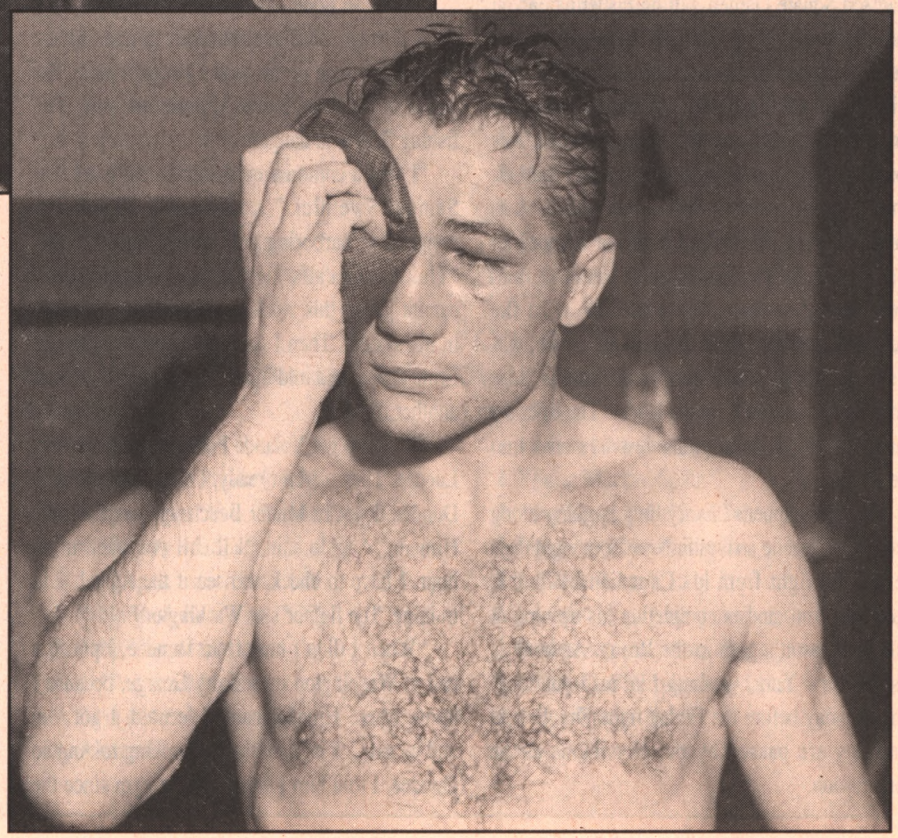
Our subject, unfortunately, is not a fit subject. Sure, he passed, but he's outclassed. By chance he's in, and by chance he might win.

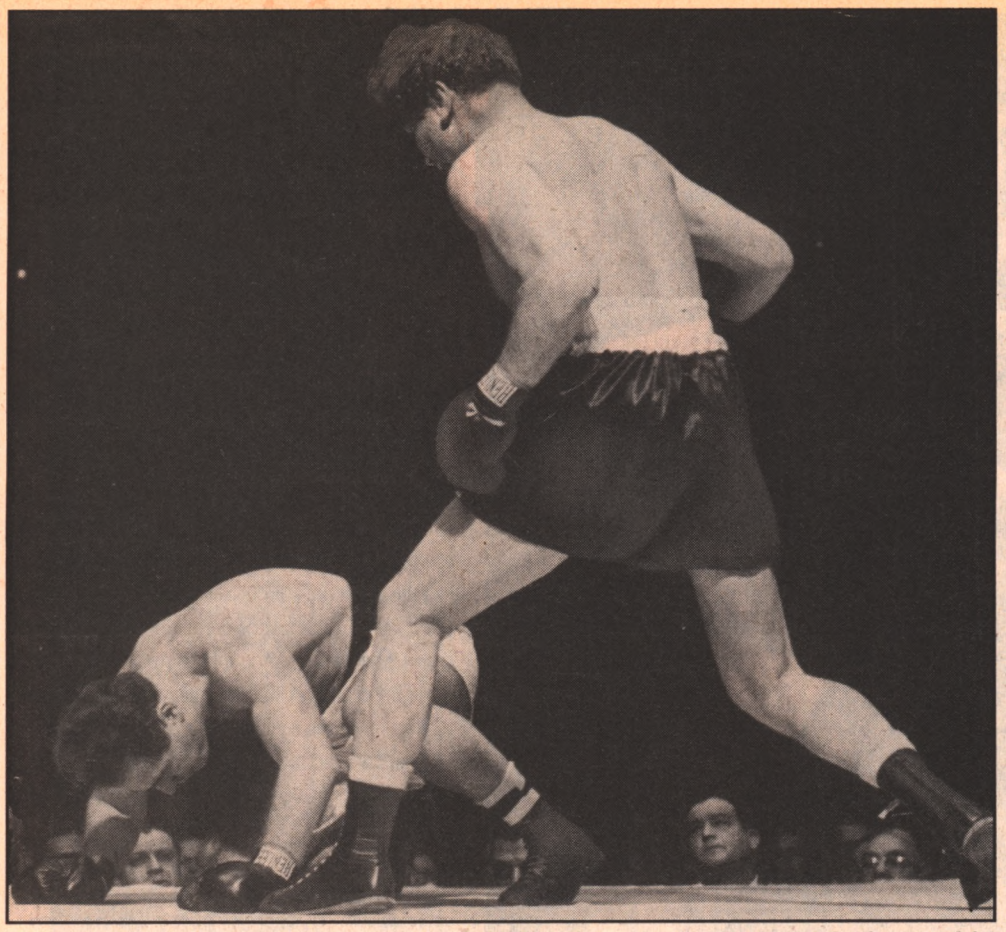
Occasionally, the Minuteman rallies his resources and comes through, and if he does, he usually projects himself into the limelight. It doesn't happen often, but happen it has, and for every dozen substitutes who went down the drain, a glowing account can be recalled of the guy who came through.

Substitute matches are more frequent nowadays, a vital necessity when TV foots the bill and the show must go on. During the first month of this year, each one of the nationally televised series had to ring in a substitute. None came through, except in the one instance when both fighters in the main event got the emergency call.

Just take the recent series of events covering what would have been a fine attraction at

In the old days, substitutes were rarely needed for world title fights. One of the few instances came in July 1950, when Italy's Tiberio Mitri subbed for Rocky Graziano and took on middleweight king Jake LaMotta (left). He went the distance—and paid a price (below).





Heavyweight Lee Savold was a substitute for Joe Baksi when he set the Madison Square Garden record for quickest kayo by finishing Gino Buonvino in 54 seconds. Savold became the perfect substitute, thanks to Baksi.

Madison Square Garden, pitting Fisherman Yvon Durelle against Tony Anthony. There is not too much going in the light heavyweight class, and this is one of the better matches. Last year Anthony was right up there, and Durelle was comparatively unknown outside a fish market. They fought, it was a draw, and Durelle was made. A string of victories with but a knockout loss at the hands of Clarence Hinnant, and Durelle was barking for a title shot. In the meantime, Anthony got a crack at the crown, was disposed of by Archie Moore, and is now working his way back up the ladder. The fight's a natural. It threatens to pull a few live ones into the Garden.

So what happens? Everything is going along smoothly. Durelle arrives in New York eight days before the fight from his Canadian bailiwick, Baie Ste. Ann, and is completing his training at Bobby Gleason's gym in the Bronx. Anthony is also in New York, working like mad Anthony. The Monday before the Friday fight, Durelle and Anthony are passed by the physicians at the commission.

So far, so good. At five o'clock on Tuesday, Billy Brown, IBC matchmaker, gets a call he needs like a hole in the head. Durelle is sick. The panic is on. The storm signals are out. The fishing fleet is in danger!

"I sent a commission doctor to the hotel, Dr. Samuel Swetnick," said Brown, like a man resigned to harboring a floating fleet of ulcers. "The doctor calls me back and says Durelle cannot go on this week, it is impossible. Poison in his system. Then I called Anthony's manager, Ernie Braca, and told him I would try and get him another fighter.

"I tried to get Yolande Pompey and then Jerry Luedee. They weren't ready. I then called Angelo Dundee down in Miami Beach. He has Clarence Hinnant. Angelo said, 'I'll call you back in an hour. I have to check and see if the fighter is in training. The fighter's in Washington.'

"When I didn't hear from Dundee, I put in a call to Washington myself, by George, because I know where Hinnant can be located. I got him and he says, 'I just got through talking to Angelo Dundee. I told him I wasn't in the gym since the last fight on December 22.' I to[ld] Hinnant, 'Well, I don't want you.'

"Then I notify the commissio[n] there wasn't anybody for Anthon[y] Braca agreed to postpone the fight. moved it to January 31, but then I s[aid] need a fight for Friday night. In th[e] back of my mind I got Paddy Quaid [in] Los Angeles. He has Charl[es] (Tombstone) Smith, one of the rank[ed] welterweights who has never show[n] on national TV. Quaid just sent me a wire that he wants a match in Ne[w] York.

"Now I'm in welterweights. Ha[ve] Stickevers happened to be here. H[e] has Joe Miceli. I said, 'Your boy in shape?' He said, 'He's been worki[ng] every day, Billy. In fact, I wish I co[uld] find somebody for him.' I sa[id] 'Would you box Tombstone Smit[h]' He says yes, so I said, 'Well, st[ay] ever so close to me, Stickevers. Do go away.'

"I called the Hollywood Le[gion] Stadium looking for Quaid, and Ju[nior] Leonard tells me, 'He just left here. must be at the restaurant next do[or] Hold on, I'll go see.' I waited a[nd] Paddy came on and I started talking him.

"'Hello, Paddy, is the boy in shape?'

"'He's training every day, waiting to h[ear] from you.'

"'Well, I have short notice for you.'

"'When is it?'

"'This Friday.'

"Paddy says, 'We are leaving now. To fi[ght] who?'

"I tell him and it's okay. Stickevers calls [the] boy at the gym. You should have heard the h[ow]l on the phone. 'Oh, boy,' he says. 'Tomorr[ow] my birthday. That's a real present!' I called [the] commission and got approval and I made out [the] contracts and the match is closed. It was a g[reat] chance to show Smith and figured to be a g[ood] substitute match."

Well, you can never tell how these 11th-h[our] manipulations will go. For the first three round[s] looked like they had something. Miceli bo[xed] beautifully, and Smith acted like a tombs[tone]. But then Charley-boy started zeroing in in [the] fourth and raked Miceli mercilessly for t[he] rounds. The New Yorker ran out of steam.

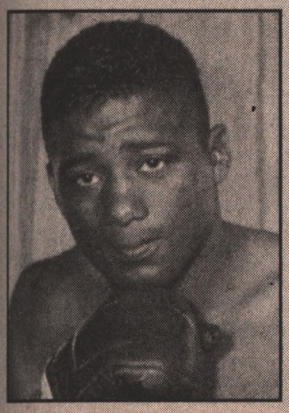
mith was just getting a head of steam up. Miceli ould not continue in the seventh round and the out was halted. Which seemed to prove the old Navy axiom, "Subs go under."

So now the decks were cleared and they had Durelle and Anthony for the 31st. It figured to be smooth sailing, but it also figured to be Anthony's turn to get sick. Which he did.

Brown had the wires humming once again, and this time Hinnant was waiting at the phone (after he left the gym). The match was settled quick, the new opponent grabbed on three days notice. With Hinnant having been Durelle's conqueror, it figured to be a good fight, but after a couple of rounds Durelle started pounding away, hitting Hinnant with everything but a halibut, and the referee stopped the bout in the seventh.

Now the Durelle-Anthony match has been rescheduled for March 14 at the Garden, and matchmaker Brown, with fingers crossed and a

THE RING RATINGS, *April 1958*



Floyd Patterson

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Floyd Patterson, Brooklyn, NY

1. **Eddie Machen**, Redding, CA
2. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
3. **Willie Pastrano**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Roy Harris**, Cut and Shoot, TX
5. **Nino Valdes**, Cuba
6. **Wayne Bethea**, New York, NY
7. **Mike DeJohn**, Syracuse, NY
8. **Alex Miteff**, Argentina
9. **Willi Besmanoff**, Germany
10. **Pat McMurtry**, Tacoma, WA

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Archie Moore, San Diego, CA

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Yvon Durelle**, Canada
3. **Yolande Pompey**, Trinidad, BWI
4. **Tony Anthony**, New York, NY
5. **Willi Hoepner**, Germany
6. **Chuck Spieser**, Lansing, MI
7. **Artenio Calzavara**, Italy
8. **Clarence Hinnant**, Washington, D.C.
9. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
10. **Uwe Janssen**, Germany

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carmen Basilio, Syracuse, NY

1. **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY
2. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
3. **Ellsworth (Spider) Webb**, Chicago, IL
4. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Charley Humez**, France
6. **Rory Calhoun**, White Plains, NY
7. **Joey Giambra**, San Francisco, CA
8. **Willie Vaughn**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Bobby Boyd**, Chicago, IL
10. **Gene Armstrong**, Elizabeth, NJ

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. **Virgil Akins**, St. Louis, MO
2. **Isaac Logart**, Cuba
3. **Vince Martinez**, Paterson, NJ
4. **Charley (Tombstone) Smith**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Tony DeMarco**, Boston, MA
6. **Gil Turner**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Gaspar Ortega**, Mexico
8. **Kid Gavilan**, Cuba
9. **George Barnes**, Australia
10. **Garnet (Sugar) Hart**, Philadelphia, PA

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Brown, New Orleans, LA

1. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
2. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
3. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Willie Toweel**, South Africa
5. **Joe Lopes**, Sacramento, CA
6. **Paolo Rosi**, New York, NY
7. **Baby Vasquez**, Mexico
8. **Al Nevarez**, Mexico
9. **Dave Charnley**, England
10. **Johnny Busso**, New York, NY

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Hogan (Kid) Bassey, Nigeria

1. **Cherif Hamia**, France
2. **Davey Moore**, Springfield, OH
3. **Paul Jorgensen**, Port Arthur, TX
4. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines
5. **Ike Chestnut**, New York, NY
6. **Ricardo Gonzalez**, Argentina
7. **Ricardo Moreno**, Mexico
8. **Jean Sneyers**, Belgium
9. **Gil Cadilli**, San Francisco, CA
10. **Gracieux Lamperti**, France

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alphonse Halimi, France

1. **Raul (Raton) Macias**, Mexico
2. **Mario D'Agata**, Italy
3. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
4. **Al Asuncion**, Philippines
5. **Jose Lopez**, Mexico
6. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
7. **Manuel Armenteros**, Cuba
8. **Joe Beccera**, Mexico
9. **Eugene LeCozannet**, France
10. **Billy Peacock**, Los Angeles, CA

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pascual Perez, Argentina

1. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
2. **Young Martin**, Spain
3. **Pone Kingpetch**, Thailand
4. **Dommy Ursua**, Philippines
5. **Aristide Pozzali**, Italy
6. **Ramon Calatayud**, Venezuela
7. **Dennis Adams**, South Africa
8. **Masaji (Lefty) Iwamoto**, Japan
9. **Sadao Yaoita**, Japan
10. **Memo Diez**, Mexico

rabbit's foot in each pocket, refuses to leave the phone until both boys are in the ring.

***

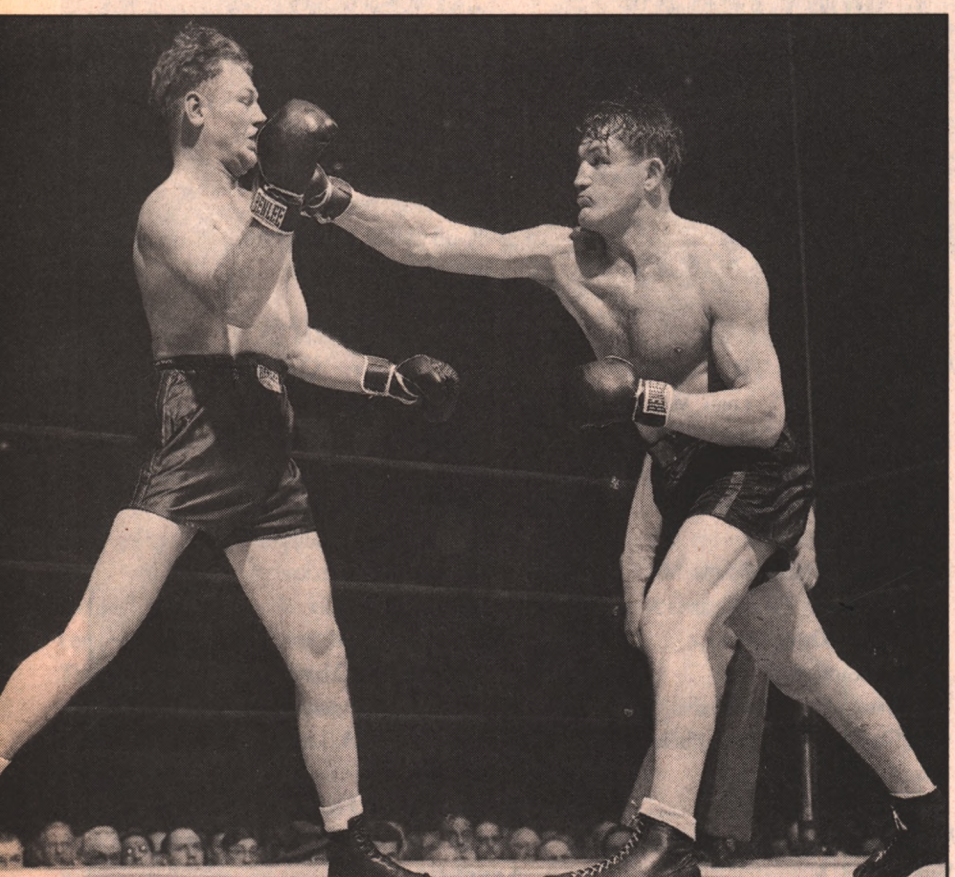
Fortune smiled on Italian Tiberio Mitri, the European middleweight champion, when he was picked to substitute for the injured Rocky Graziano against champion Jake LaMotta in a title bout at Madison Square Garden on July 12, 1950. The call for Mitri came a week before the bout took place. Mitri's stock was high, and though he had fought in the States only once, decisioning Dick Wagner in the Garden seven weeks previous, the gate drew well, just missing the $100,000 mark, at $99,841. It is the only instance we know of when a sub went into a title bout on short notice.

fight opponent. Mitri, even though he lost a 15-round decision to "The Bronx Bull," gave a fine account of himself.

Willie Ritchie was a long-range substitute who made good. He began his career as an emergency fighter in 1907. Ritchie was to have acted as a second for a friend, Frankie Edwards, and when one of the preliminary boys failed to show, the promoter begged Willie to take the absent boxer's place. He did and lost the match, a two-rounder.

Willie accounted for two of the greatest feats as a sub when he stepped from among the spectators to box two of the game's then-outstanding boxers, Freddie Welsh and Young Erne.

He subbed for Ad Wolgast against Welsh on



Substitutes were always in the gym and ready to rumble when top-10 heavyweight Joe Baksi was scheduled to fight. Baksi, shown firing a straight right at Lee Savold, was famed for pulling out of bouts.

As it was, Graziano had received the title bout under a strange and tragic set of circumstances. Marcel Cerdan had lost the title to LaMotta in June 1949, and a return was delayed when LaMotta was injured. Cerdan returned to his home in Casablanca, and in October 1949, was returning to the States for the championship match when his plane crashed in the Azores and he was killed. Graziano replaced him as the title

November 30, 1911, and lost a 20-round decision, a sizzling bout in which he displayed the superb boxing skills which ultimately made him a champion.

When Packey McFarland became indisposed just before he was to face Erne in Philadelphia on February 7, 1912, "Fireman" Ritchie, Packey's stablemate, was paged from among the ringsiders and asked to fill in for McFarland in a six-round

no-decision affair. Willie gained the newsp verdict.

At that time Willie was nobody's sub in strictest sense of the word. He had defeated Britton and bested Matty Baldwin in 20 sessi He boxed Wolgast in a four-round no-dec match at San Francisco on May 11, 19 fighting under wraps and convincing Wolga would be the perfect opponent fo championship go.

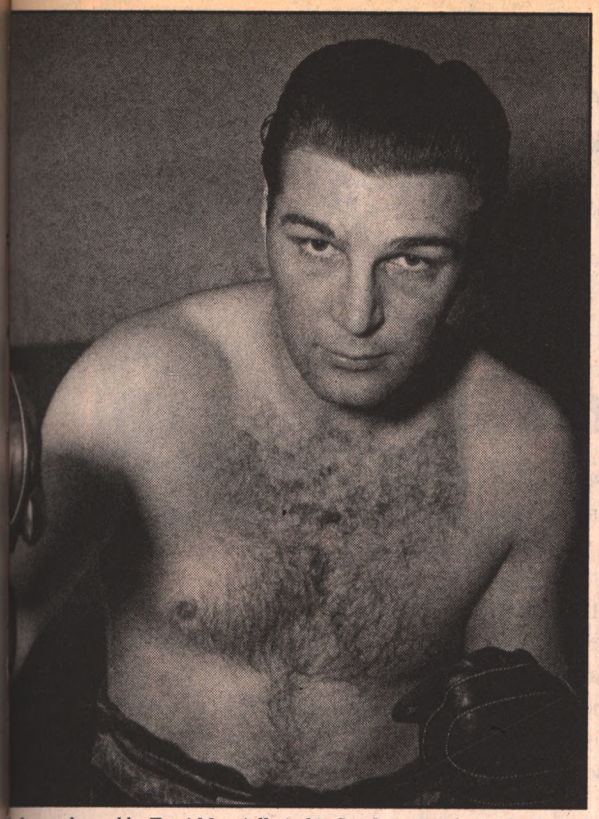
They were matched for the title on Nove 28, 1912, at Daly City, California. Ritchie the championship on a foul in the 16th ro After raising the title poundage from 133 to Ritchie lost the crown when he defende against Welsh at London, England, on Ju 1914.

***

Lou Nova, now a thespian, gained impetus which netted him a chance at heavyweight title by being the first subst ever to be rushed to New York from Calif by airplane. Bob Pastor was training for a m with Gunnar Barlund late in 1938 when Pa cut his foot while chopping wood. A rush was put through to California, and Nova petitioned to take Pastor's place. He had fou draw with Pastor, and this was to be his first time fight in New York. Nova flew in stopped Barlund in seven rounds to cata himself into heavyweight contention. He later matched with Joe Louis for the title and kayoed in seven heats.

Back in 1946, Willie Pep held New Y recognition as featherweight champion, while Bartolo was the NBA boss, and a match made for March 1 that would settle matters Sal's sudden illness called off the title affair Jimmy McAllister, who had surprised by his Pep to a draw in Baltimore a few months be was called in. Pep, in almost 100 pro bouts only one loss (to Sammy Angott) and the with McAllister to mar his record. So it figure be a good match and a splendid opportunity the Baltimore battler to show his stuff be big-time audience against a great champion never one to end matters quickly unless arose, iced McAllister in two heats.

One of the quickly recalled example successful Garden substitute was Lee Oma leaped in for Joe Baksi in a bout with T Mauriello on three days notice. Oma didn't that night—he was knocked out. But it w opportunity he had been waiting for, a subsequent fights he built himself a follo



Oma was kayoed by Tami Mauriello in his first bout as a late sub. He had stepped in for Joe Baksi on three days notice. But that bout led to other high-profile fights, and the colorful heavyweight soon became a top attraction.

with his style of colorful clowning.

Oma had helped Mauriello get in shape for the Baksi fight, and strangely enough, while in camp, he turned an ankle that required canceling a bout. When he was ready, he took on Teddy Randolph at the Queensboro Arena and got eight good rounds under his belt. When the call came several days later for him to sub for Baksi, he was ready.

Speaking of Baksi, he was probably the number-one substitute-rooter of all-time. Joe, endowed with all the attributes that make for a champ, had the uncanny luck of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or, if being at the right place, then coming up with some injury or illness that robbed him of the chance of making good.

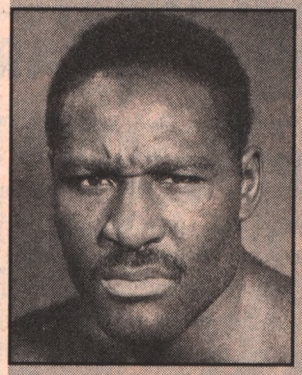
Baksi disliked training, and his withdrawal from matches because of real or imaginary ailments or injuries caused many a matchmaker a headache. He also "made" Lee Savold as a comeback fighter, and in Lee produced "the perfect substitute."

On March 19, 1948, Baksi was to have fought Gino Buonvino in Madison Square Garden, but had to withdraw at the last moment. Savold, who was at the tail-end of his career, subbed and turned in the quickest knockout in Garden main event history, halting Buonvino in 54 seconds. From there Savold went on to become one of the leading lights of the heavyweight division, and even gained British recognition as the world champion when he stopped Bruce Woodcock with Joe Louis retired and the crown vacant.

Why the perfect sub? Well, Baksi got around to fighting Buonvino three years later, on October 19, 1951, not at the Garden, but at smaller St. Nicholas Arena. Baksi, who could have gone on to great things a few years before, also kayoed Buonvino in one round, duplicating 54 seconds, to be exact!

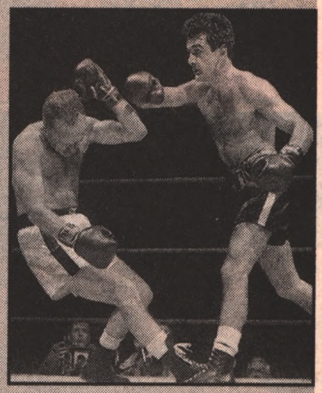
■

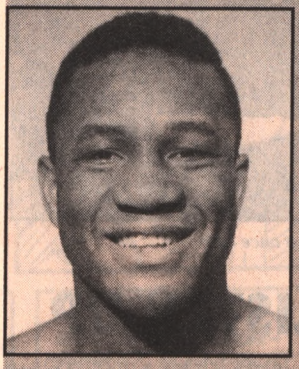
The Cover: Having mastered the art of the title fight rematch, will middleweight Sugar Ray Robinson take the world championship back from Carmen Basilio? Their return bout, scheduled for March, is perhaps the most anticipated fight of 1958.



Turning It On: In his feature story "Lazy But Lethal," Lester Bromberg examines the fighters who put out nothing more than the effort needed to register a victory. Some of his prime examples: Archie Moore, Willie Pep, Joe Brown, and Ezzard Charles (pictured).

Filling The Welter Throne: Managing Editor Nat Loubet looks at the three 147-pounders who will attempt to win the vacant welterweight title. The contestants: New Jersey's Vince Martinez (pictured vs. Chuck Davey), a cautious boxer who has beaten Kid Gavilan and Gil Turner, Cuba's Isaac Logart, a speed-demon who has topped Yama Bahama, Turner, Gaspar Ortega, and Joe Miceli, and St. Louis' Virgil Akins, a dangerous puncher who has defeated Sugar Hart and Tony DeMarco.





Heavyweight Hopeful: Fred Eisenstadt takes a close look at New York-based heavyweight Wayne Bethea, who is rated seventh by THE RING. While having compiled a record of only 17-7-1, the 25-year-old Bethea has dropped Zora Folley for a nine-count and beaten Bert Whitehurst and Young Jack Johnson. He's awkward and clumsy, but also big, strong, and lethal.

Fighter Of The Month: European middleweight champion Charley Humez receives the honors for besting Italo Scortichini over 10 rounds. The win was Humez' 92nd in 100 career bouts. Humez is ranked fifth by THE RING at 160 pounds.

LOOKING AHEAD

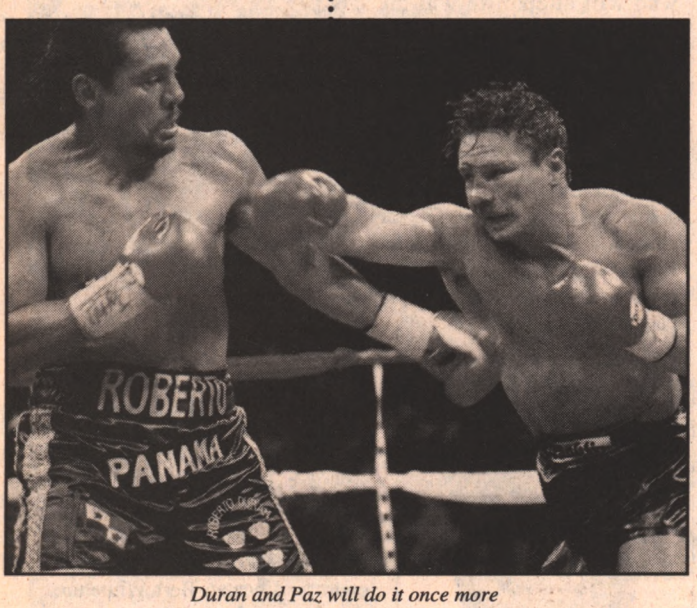
By Steve Farhood

Trainer Joe Goossen with Rafael (left) and Gabe Ruel

BROTHER, WHAT A CARD!

In case this year's Super Bowl, scheduled for Miami on January 29, turns out to be another Super Stinker, you may want to salvage the weekend by buying TVKO's Saturday night pay-per-view show. Featured will be three competitive title fights: WBC super featherweight champion Gabe Ruelas will make his defense, risking the crown against streaking New Yorker Freddie Liberatore; Gabe's brother, IBF lightweight titlist Rafael Ruelas, will make a mandatory defense against one of boxing's best-kept secrets, Colombia's Mi Julio; and in another mandatory, and the most intriguing matchup on the card, IBF junior welterweight champ Jake "The Snake" Rodriguez will clash with Australia's unbeaten and heavily hyped Kostya Tszyu.

As we went to press, Top Rank, the show's promoter, said the card was likely to land at the Grand Olym Auditorium in Los Angeles.



Duran and Paz will do it once more

PAZIENZA-DURAN: ONE MORE TIME

Vinny Pazienza-Roberto Duran, which took place on June 25, in Vegas, was a major pay-per-view success (137,000 buys at $24.95 per you know what that means: Paz-Duran II, to be televised by TVKO scheduled for January 14 at the Convention Center in Atlantic C According to Mike Acri, Duran's matchmaker and adviser, "Hands Stone" will pocket $600,000 and Paz $750,000. The contracted we limit is 168 pounds. Hector Camacho-Todd Foster will headline undercard.

"Why not do it again?" said Acri. "About 70 percent of the wri polled in Las Vegas thought Duran won the first fight. Roberto feels punches were cleaner."

Added Duran during an interview on the USA Network, "With weeks of training, I gave him a beating. He knows he didn't beat me."

Acri said if Duran wins, a rubber match with Paz would be likely if the 43-year-old legend loses? "I can see him making one swan so the U.S., then one in Panama, before packing it in."

LISTEN UP

So what if he's ballooned to more than 300 pounds? The rumors are hotter than ever that **Buster Doug** going to return to the ring. His motivation, as if you couldn't guess: a rematch with the soon-to-be-comebo **Mike Tyson**. Word is that Douglas has already lost a ton of weight. No, not *literally* a ton … Forget about t hot contender **Danny Romero** becoming the first American world flyweight champion in a zillion years. In h he doesn't secure a title shot within the next few months, forget about him becoming a junior bantamweight t either. The 20-year-old Romero, who has trouble making 115 pounds, is nearing a jump to bantamweight … super welterweight champion **Terry Norris** told us he'll be taking on WBA king **Julio Cesar Vasquez** unification bout early in 1995. As we went to press, Vasquez was scheduled to defend in December against **Jackson**.

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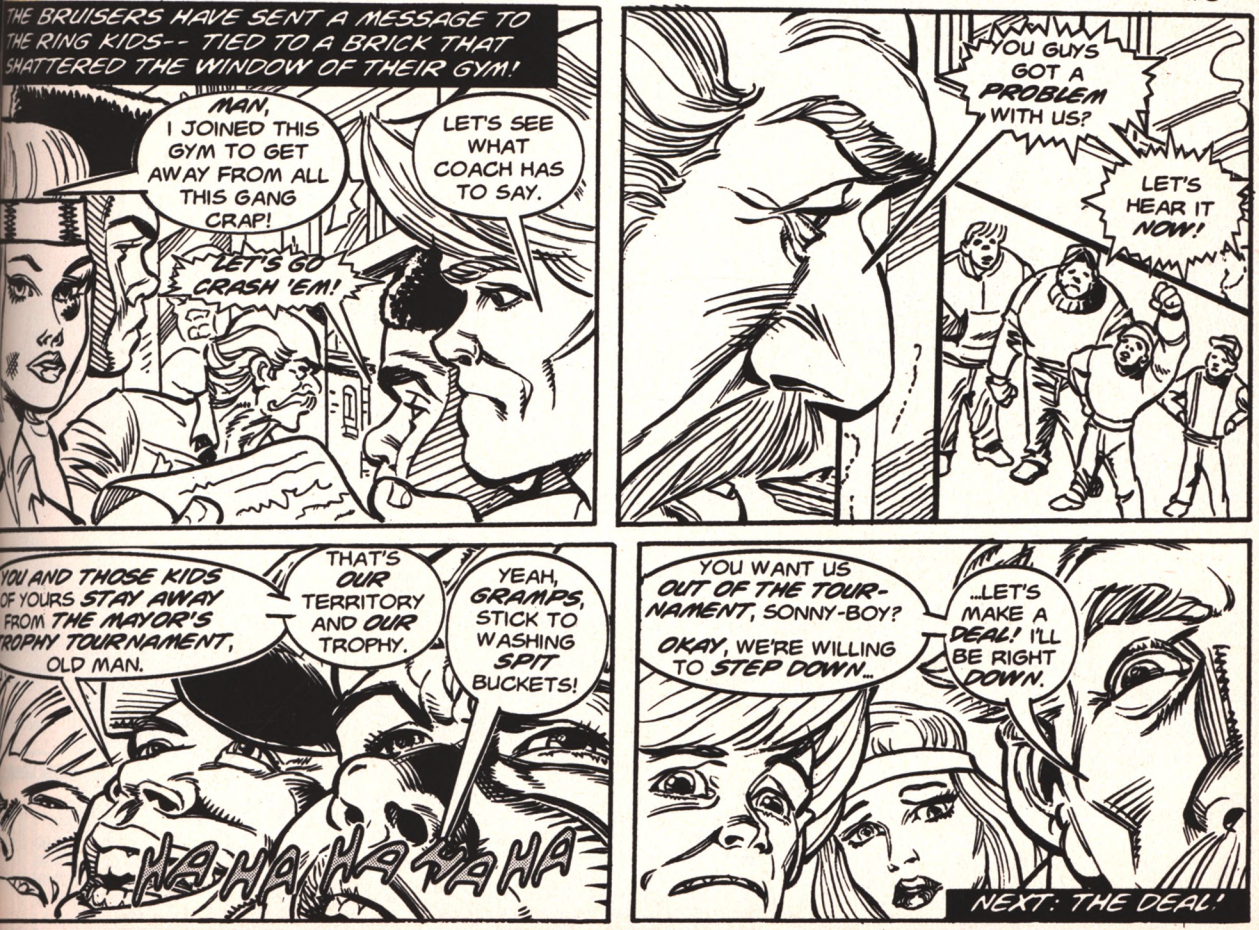

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